
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2005



Farragut Square
National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan
Reservations

Table of Contents

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

Farragut Square is a formal urban park, located a short distance north of the White House and occupying a rectangular site bounded by major streets: K Street on the north, I Street on the south, and 17th Street on both the east and west. It has changed little since the first improvements were made in the 1870s. Farragut Square and its sister park, McPherson Square, two blocks to the east, each form part of a “patte d’oie” in relation to the White House grounds and Lafayette Park. A patte d’oie, or goose foot, was a standard element of Baroque landscape planning, comprising a central axis breaking into three separate axes.

A bronze statue of Civil War hero Admiral David Glasgow Farragut stands on a granite pedestal in the center of the park. Diagonal walks symmetrically bisect the park, intersecting at a paved area circling the statue’s elliptical plot. A pair of parallel walks, essentially laid out in plan as a loop, runs from the park’s northwest corner to the southeast, following the line of Connecticut Avenue, a thoroughfare which for a brief time (1873 to 1881) cut through the site. Similarly, a single diagonal walk leads from the northeast corner to the southwest. Sidewalks surround the park on all sides, and two short walks lead from the park’s center to sidewalks on the east and west. All walks are paved with concrete divided into square sections.

Between the walks are panels of grass. The outer edges of panels, along the sidewalks, are surrounded by quarter-round concrete curbing. Deciduous trees are planted irregularly on the lawns and along the walks.

High-rise office and commercial structures surround the park on all sides. Where Farragut Square once served, in effect, as the front garden for imposing mansions, it is now an urban park used by workers from surrounding office buildings. The main focal point within the park is the Farragut monument, and the most prominent vista outside the park is the view south along the Connecticut Avenue corridor to Lafayette Park.

Over forty benches are staggered along the park walkways. All of these are new, with elaborately scrolled iron supports and arms (including two side arms and a central arm), and wooden slats. Eight light posts stand along the walks. The posts are a modern, simplified version of a classical column, a type known as the “Washington Standard,” and support Lexan (a thermoplastic resin) versions of the standard urn-shaped “Washington Globe” lamp. New steel-slat trash receptacles are placed between the benches and around the park’s perimeter. Two new steel handicap-accessible drinking fountains are placed near the statue.

Farragut Square is heavily used. The majority of visitors are office workers walking through the park as part of their daily commute, but many people come to the park to enjoy picnic lunches or to attend concerts and movies in the summers. Bicycle couriers use it as a central gathering place. Many homeless people frequent the park.

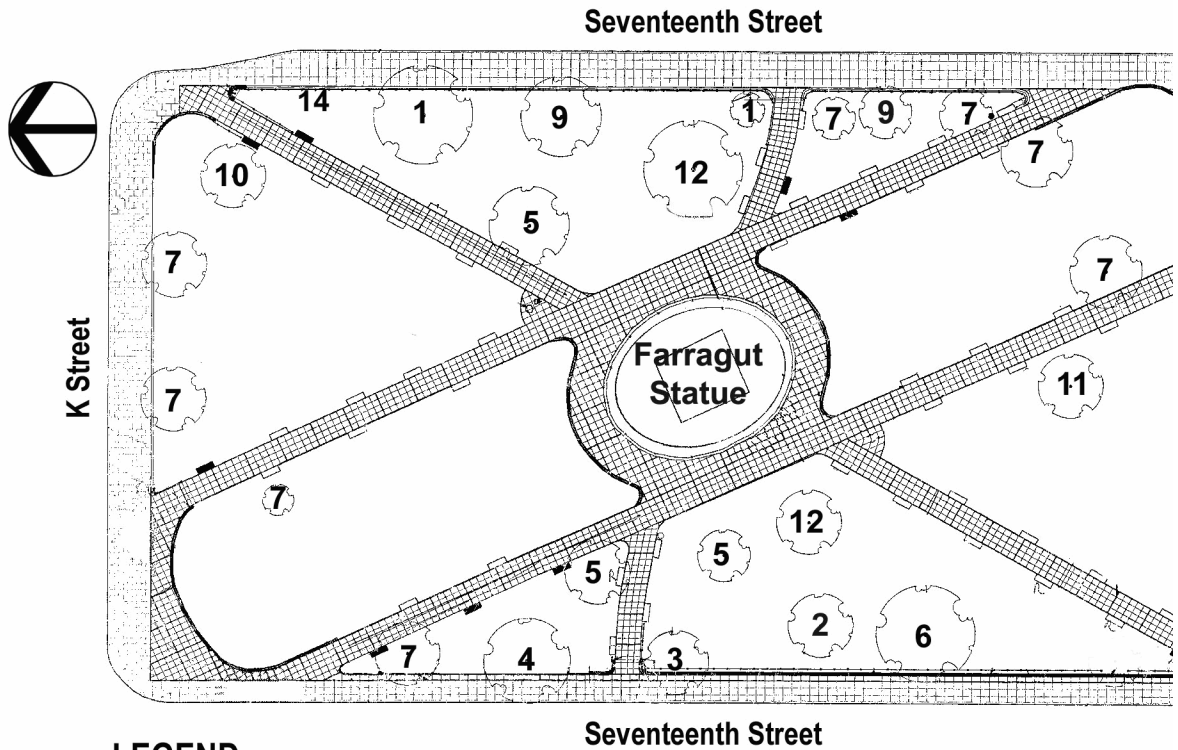
Overall, the park has medium integrity. Most of the tree species remain the same. Two trees, a ginkgo and a sophora, date from before 1886. Other trees are older deciduous specimens likely dating from

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

the period of significance, or newer deciduous trees occupying similar locations as older trees. Therefore, the general pattern of tree planting has remained similar to that during the period of significance. The pattern and species of shrub and flower beds changed several times before 1965; hedges and beds of flowering annuals, installed at the ends of the loop described by the parallel walks in 1965 during the Beautification Program, were removed in 2004. The circulation system has been changed only slightly since the removal of Connecticut Avenue in 1881 – the paving materials have been altered and replaced, the two east-west spur paths were added in 1901, and the sidewalks have been widened, the west sidewalk in 2004. Most small-scale features in Farragut Square have recently been replaced; as a result, few have integrity.

Site Plan



LEGEND

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. American elm (<i>Ulmus americana</i>) | 6. Ginkgo (<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>) | 11. Scarlet oak (<i>Q. coccinea</i>) |
| 2. American linden (<i>Tilia americana</i>) | 7. Littleleaf linden (<i>Tilia cordata</i>) | 12. Sophora (<i>Sophora japonica</i>) |
| 3. Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i>) | 8. Red chestnut (<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>) | 13. White ash (<i>Fraxinus americana</i>) |
| 4. Chalkbark maple (<i>Acer luicoderme</i>) | 9. Red oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>) | 14. Willow oak (<i>Quercus phellos</i>) |
| 5. Crabapple (<i>Malus</i>) | 10. Sawtooth oak (<i>Quercus acutissima</i>) | |

In 2003/2004, shrub and flower beds at ends of diagonal panels were removed, ends of diagonal panels were reshaped, and sidewalk along west side was widened. (CLP digital photo Farragut site plan revision flat July 2 2005)

Property Level and CLI Numbers

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Inventory Unit Name: | Farragut Square |
| Property Level: | Component Landscape |
| CLI Identification Number: | 600227 |
| Parent Landscape: | 600215 |

Park Information

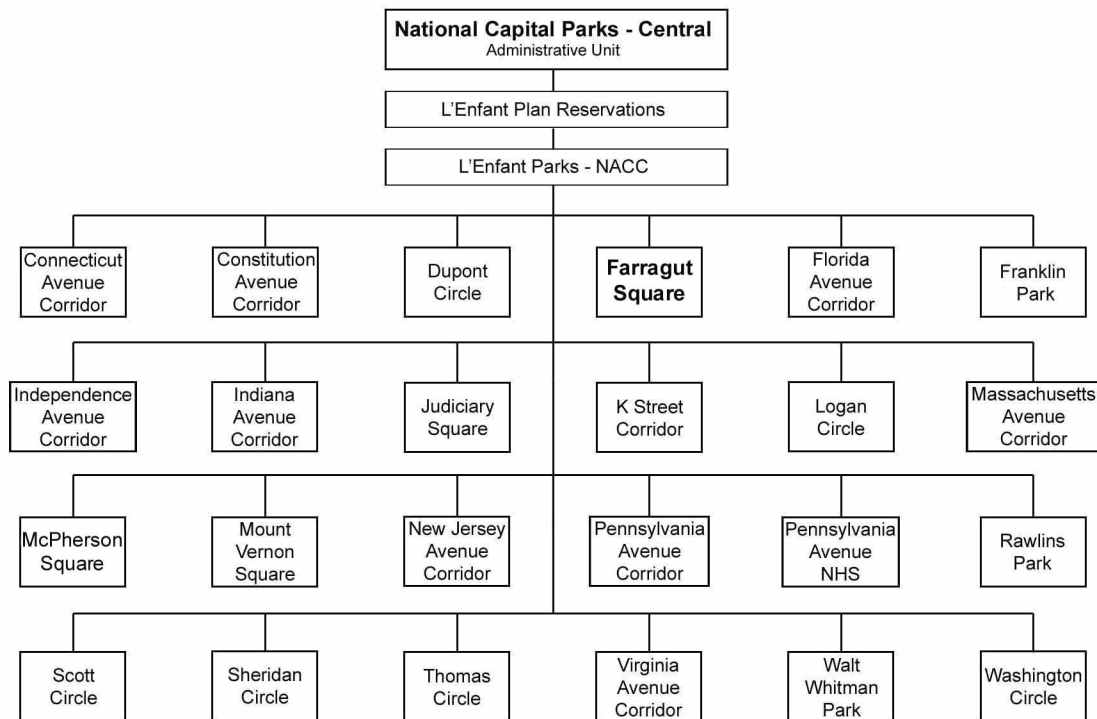
| | |
|--|--|
| Park Name and Alpha Code: | National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations -NAMA |
| Park Organization Code: | 340A |
| Subunit/District Name Alpha Code: | National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations - NAMA |
| Park Administrative Unit: | National Capital Parks-Central |

CLI Hierarchy Description

Farragut Square is a component landscape of National Mall & Memorial Parks (formerly National Capital Parks-Central), and part of the L'Enfant Plan for the City of Washington. The landscape consists of all of Reservation 12.

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations



This graphic depicts, in alphabetical order, the twenty-four L'Enfant Plan parks and street corridors administered by National Capital Parks - Central. (CLP digital photofile Farragut Square/add Nov. 2004/revised hierarchy)

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The Level II Cultural Landscape Inventory for Farragut Square was written by Yiqing Yan, intern with U.S. ICOMOS (U.S. International Conference on Monuments and Sites) during the summer of 2003. The initial meeting with park staff was held in June 2003. Yan was assisted by members of the National Capital Region Cultural Landscapes Program. She conducted field research and initial document assessment; prepared the first draft of the report, with maps and photos; and completed draft data entry. Kay Fanning, Landscape Historian for the Cultural Landscapes Program, edited and completed the final version of the document. Research was conducted at NPS-NCR Headquarters (reports, maps, historic photos, and digital maps from TIC), NCR Cultural Landscapes Program (Beautification Files), NCR Maintenance Division (maps, historic photos), the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., library in the City Museum (historic photos), and D.C. Libraries, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch (historic photos, newspapers).

Further information on Farragut Square is available in the cultural resource files of National Capital Parks - Central. Cultural Landscapes Program staff was not aware that these files existed and did not use them in preparing this document.

In April 2005, the name of National Capital Parks - Central was changed to National Mall & Memorial Parks. This change has not yet been made to the database.

Concurrence Status:

| | |
|---|--|
| Park Superintendent Concurrence: | Yes |
| Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: | 09/19/2005 |
| National Register Concurrence: | Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination |
| Date of Concurrence Determination: | 09/09/2005 |

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Farragut Square CLI on 9/9/05, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of Eligibility Determination refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of National Register Eligibility, since that is not the purview of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

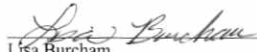
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Office of Lands, Resources and Planning
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

August 17, 2005

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region
From: State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Farragut Square Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Lisa Burcham, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Farragut Square Cultural Landscape Inventory as submitted on August 17, 2005.



Lisa Burcham
District of Columbia
State Historic Preservation Officer



Date

Concurrence memo for FY2005 signed by the DC SHPO on 9/9/2005.

Farragut Square
National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

August 22, 2011

Memorandum:

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Farragut Square Cultural Landscape Condition Reassessment

I, Robert Vogel, Superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks, concur with the condition reassessment for the Farragut Square cultural landscape:

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The cultural landscape condition reassessment for Farragut Square is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks

9/19/11

Date

Condition reassessment concurrence signed by the NAMA superintendent on 9/19/2011

Farragut Square
National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Office of Lands, Resources and Planning
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

March 22, 2005

Memorandum

To: Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, National Mall & Memorial Parks
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Farragut Square Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Vikki Keys, Superintendent of National Mall & Memorial Parks, concur with the findings of the Farragut Square Cultural Landscape Inventory as submitted on March 22, 2005.

VKeys
Vikki Keys
Superintendent, National Mall & Memorial Parks

Sept 19, 2005
Date

Concurrence memo for FY2005 signed by the NAMA Superintendent on 9/19/2005.

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:

Other

Revision Date: 09/19/2011

Revision Narrative:

Condition reassessment done FY2011. Condition remained Good.

Revision Date: 09/30/2003

Revision Narrative:

Kay Fanning revised Yiqing Yan's draft to include further information required for complete documentation.

Revision Date: 03/30/2004

Revision Narrative:

Kay Fanning revised the inventory, incorporating review comments from park and regional staff.

Revision Date: 11/04/2004

Revision Narrative:

Further editing of several sections, particularly Analysis and Evaluation, was necessary to discuss changes made to the park during rehabilitation work that concluded in 2004.

Revision Date: 02/14/2005

Revision Narrative:

A revised site plan, reflecting changes made during the 2003/2004 rehabilitation, was added.

Revision Date: 06/21/2005

Revision Narrative:

Final revisions and comments by park staff were incorporated into the document.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Farragut Square consists of all of Reservation 12 in Northwest Washington D.C., and is bounded on the north by K Street, on the south by I Street, and on both east and west by 17th Street.

State and County:

State: DC

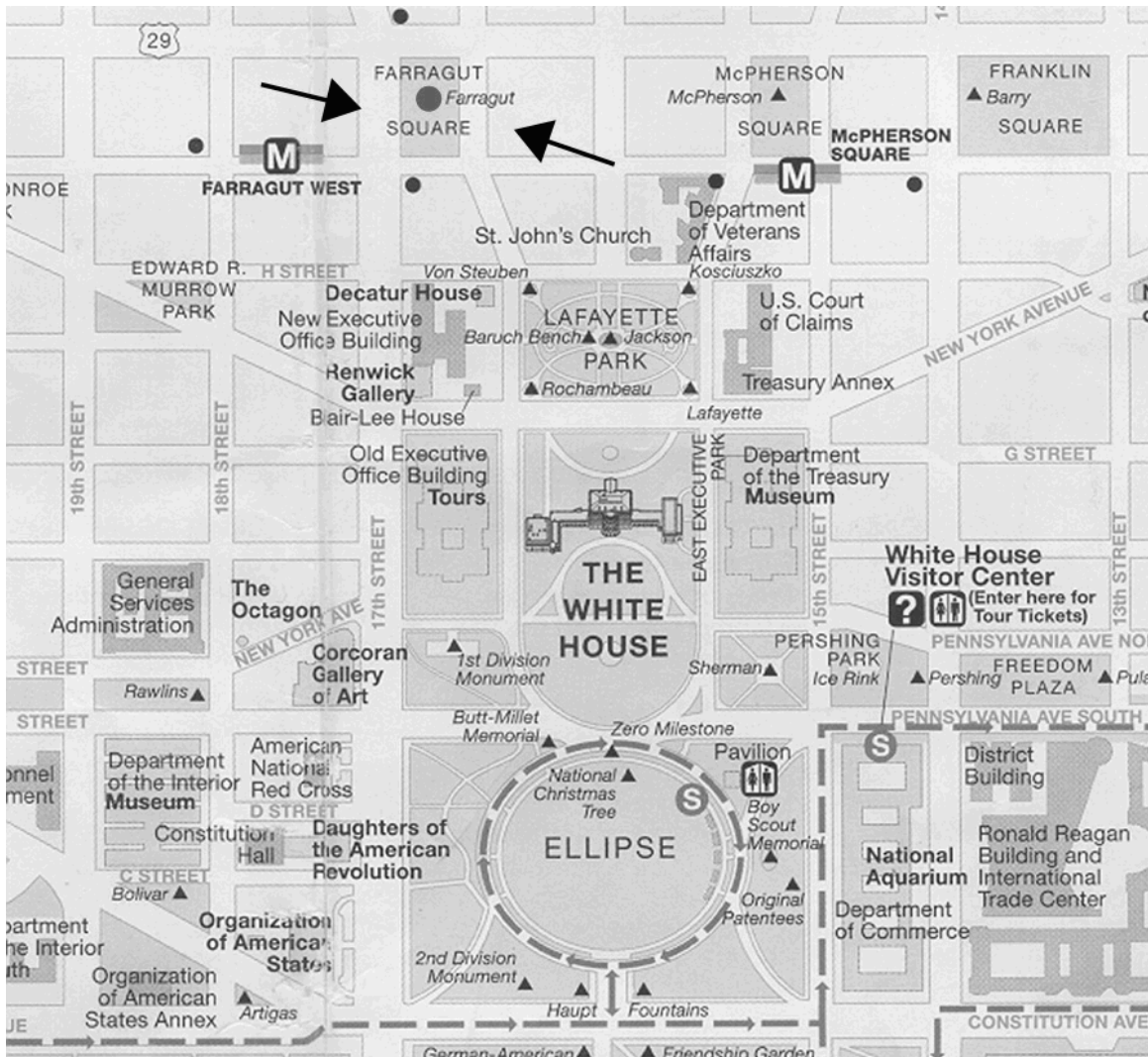
County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 1.57

Boundary UTMS:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Source: | GPS-Differentially Corrected |
| Type of Point: | Point |
| Datum: | NAD 83 |
| UTM Zone: | 18 |
| UTM Easting: | 323,218 |
| UTM Northing: | 4,307,815 |
| Source: | GPS-Differentially Corrected |
| Type of Point: | Point |
| Datum: | NAD 83 |
| UTM Zone: | 18 |
| UTM Easting: | 323,163 |
| UTM Northing: | 4,307,927 |
| Source: | GPS-Differentially Corrected |
| Type of Point: | Point |
| Datum: | NAD 83 |
| UTM Zone: | 18 |
| UTM Easting: | 323,218 |
| UTM Northing: | 4,307,925 |
| Source: | GPS-Differentially Corrected |
| Type of Point: | Point |
| Datum: | NAD 83 |
| UTM Zone: | 18 |
| UTM Easting: | 323,159 |
| UTM Northing: | 4,307,816 |

Location Map:



Location of Farragut Square, shown on map derived from NPS map, Washington: The Nation's Capital."(GPO, 2000; CLP digital photofile Graphics file Farragut Square/final CLI illus., May 2004/location map BW)

Management Unit: National Mall & Memorial Parks

Tract Numbers: Reservation 12

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/19/2005

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Farragut Square is included in the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property nomination, "The L'Enfant Plan for the City of Washington D.C." (1997).

The Management Category Date is the date the CLI was first approved by the park superintendent.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Expiration Date: NOT APPLICABLE

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple Reservation

Explanatory Narrative:

Farragut Square is among the reservations acquired when Washington, D.C. was established in the 1790s.

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

Farragut Square is always open.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Farragut Square is located in the heart of Washington, D.C.'s central business district. Originally developed as a park within a wealthy residential neighborhood, the square is now surrounded on all four sides by high-rise structures housing business, law, federal government, union, and other offices. Small businesses, such as shops, coffeehouses, bakeries, and restaurants, are located in the first floors of most adjacent buildings. Most structures have been built within the last 50 years and exhibit a range of mostly nondescript modern office design. A few buildings have some architectural distinction. The sole structure retaining a vestige of the park's original character is the Army Navy Club at the northeast corner of I and K streets. In 1983, its 1911 façade was incorporated into a new twelve-story structure.



Birdseye view of Farragut Square looking southeast, showing the surrounding office buildings. The rebuilt Army Navy Club is visible at the top center left of the photo. (HABS, 1992)

National Register Information

Existing NRIS Information:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| NRIS Number: | 97000332 |
| Primary Certification: | Listed In The National Register |
| Primary Certification Date: | 04/24/1997 |
| Other Certifications and Date: | Date Received/Pending Nomination - 3/19/1997 |
| NRIS Number: | 78000257 |
| Other Names: | Freestanding Equestrian Statues and other Civil War Monument;Freestanding Equestrian Statues and other Civil War Monumen |
| Primary Certification: | Listed In The National Register |
| Primary Certification Date: | 09/20/1978 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Significance Criteria: | C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values |
| Significance Criteria: | A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history |

Period of Significance:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Time Period: | AD 1867 - 1934 |
| Historic Context Theme: | Expressing Cultural Values |
| Subtheme: | Landscape Architecture |
| Facet: | The Late Victorian Eclectic Landscape |
| Other Facet: | None |
| Time Period: | AD 1791 |
| Historic Context Theme: | Expressing Cultural Values |
| Subtheme: | Landscape Architecture |
| Facet: | The Early National Period |
| Other Facet: | None |

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Art

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Entertainment - Recreation

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Statement of Significance:

Farragut Square is a contributing site for the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property nomination, the “L’Enfant Plan for the City of Washington D.C.” (1997). In addition, the Admiral David G. Farragut statue is a contributing feature to the nomination “Civil War Statuary in the District of Columbia” (1978). As defined in this Cultural Landscape Inventory, Farragut Square has two Periods of Significance: 1791, the year that the tract comprising the square appeared among the sites set aside for ceremonial government use on the L’Enfant Plan; and 1867 to 1904, a period extending from the year plans were first instituted for development of the park to the year the iron post-and-chain fencing was replaced with concrete quarter-round curbs.

Farragut Square is eligible under National Register Criteria A, B, and C. As stated in the L’Enfant Plan nomination:

“The historic plan of Washington, District of Columbia – the nation’s capital – designed by Pierre L’Enfant in 1791 as the site of the Federal City, represents the sole American example of a comprehensive Baroque city plan with a coordinated system of radiating avenues, parks and vistas laid over an orthogonal system. . . . The plan meets National Register Criterion A for its relationship with the creation of the new United States of America and the creation of a capital city; it meets Criterion B because of its design by Pierre L’Enfant, and subsequent development and enhancement by numerous significant persons and groups responsible for the city’s landscape architecture and regional planning; and it meets Criterion C as a well-preserved, comprehensive, Baroque plan with Beaux-Arts modifications.” (“L’Enfant Plan” nomination 1997:Section 8, p. 1, 2)

These factors applying to the plan as a whole are also relevant to its constituent parts, including Farragut Square. With McPherson Square and Lafayette Park, and the three major streets of Connecticut Avenue, Sixteenth Street, and Vermont Avenue on which they are situated, Farragut

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

Square forms a “patte d’oie,” or goose foot, configuration in relation to the White House grounds. This was a standard feature of Baroque planning that served to focus attention on sites of outstanding importance, and to open up axial views. The statue is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, as defined in the “Civil War Statuary” nomination, for the 1881 statue of Admiral Farragut that is its centerpiece.

Farragut Square is a largely intact Victorian park in the heart of the national capital’s modern business district. Over the decades, the surrounding blocks have undergone a radical transformation, and their residential character has been slowly eroded by the construction of large modern office blocks, but the small park has retained its circulation pattern, its lawns planted with large trees, and its central statue. The square’s boundaries, its spatial organization, and land use also have changed little. The major alterations have been to site furnishings and individual plant specimens and plantings, which are simpler than those originally planted.

The land now occupied by Farragut Square appears on L’Enfant’s 1791 Plan for Washington, D.C. as a rectangular open area set aside for ceremonial government use. Originally part of a tract called “Port Royal,” patented in 1687, the portion of the tract including the future park was sold to the U.S. government in 1791, part of over 3,600 acres acquired for the creation of streets and alleys. The site remained unimproved until after the Civil War. During the war, two Union batteries encamped there, and the Freedman’s Bureau constructed temporary wooden office buildings on the square. Beginning in the 1850s, prominent citizens built large mansions facing the square and along nearby streets.

In 1867, the military assumed control of public property in Washington through the Office of Public Building and Grounds (OPBG), part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The first officer in charge, Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Michler, immediately recommended improving this plot in concert with the corresponding area two blocks east, where Vermont Avenue had recently been removed to create Scott Square (soon renamed McPherson Square). However, in 1871 Connecticut Avenue was constructed diagonally through the tract, dividing it into two triangular plots. These changes were undertaken as part of the enormous program of civic improvements carried out during the short tenure (1871-74) of the Territorial Government and its Board of Public Works, spearheaded by Alexander R. “Boss” Shepherd. As one of the city’s important thoroughfares, Connecticut Avenue was paved as a twenty-four-foot wide roadway extending north from Lafayette Square to the city’s boundary at Florida Avenue.

In 1871, Congress authorized that the square on Connecticut Avenue between K and I Streets be named Farragut Square after Union Admiral David G. Farragut, hero of the Civil War battles of New Orleans and Mobile Bay, and that a memorial statue be erected in its center. An elliptical area for the statue was planned for the center of the roadway.

Most improvements to the new Farragut Square were carried out in 1871 and 1872. The soil was replaced, gas and water pipes were laid, and the land was enclosed with a picket fence to keep out roaming livestock. The first trees and shrubs were planted, and the open ground was seeded with Kentucky bluegrass. A paved sidewalk was laid along I Street, and asphalt walks lined by sod were

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

constructed throughout the park. An iron post-and-chain barrier soon replaced the picket fence, and a combined lamp and drinking fountain was installed. Benches were installed in 1877.

The presence of Connecticut Avenue proved hazardous for pedestrians and park visitors alike, and after the dedication of the Farragut monument in April 1881, the roadway was removed. The road cut was filled and sodded, and a pair of parallel walks was built that maintained the diagonal axis through the park. The Farragut monument – the first memorial to a naval hero constructed in Washington – was the work of the woman sculptor, Vinnie Ream Hoxie.

Between 1881 and 1963, few alterations were made to the basic design of Farragut Square. In 1883, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds established Farragut Square as Reservation No. 12 of the federally owned spaces in Washington D.C. The most important changes to the park were the replacement of the iron post-and-chain fence with concrete curbing in 1904, the installation of a new gas lighting system in 1912, and the subsequent replacement of gas lights with electric in 1923.

While the design of Farragut Square remained intact, the surrounding neighborhood underwent tremendous change. Mansions were demolished, replaced in the early twentieth century by grand apartment buildings and some institutional structures. In the 1950s and 1960s, the remaining residences and older apartment buildings in the Farragut Square neighborhood were replaced by glass-and-concrete office buildings or by parking lots. Similar alterations occurred around the other downtown parks – Lafayette and Franklin Parks and McPherson Square.

In 1933, most of the city's parks were transferred from the jurisdiction of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks to the National Capital Parks of the National Park Service. The National Park Service has maintained Farragut Square since that time.

Changes were made to Farragut Square in the 1960s under the Beautification Program of First Lady Lady Bird Johnson. Trees, shrubs, and seasonal floral displays were added. Site furnishings, such as new benches and trash cans, were installed. Construction of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit subway system, known as "Metro," interrupted park use for several years in the 1970s.

From 2001 to 2004, several projects were undertaken to rehabilitate Farragut Square, improve its appearance and accessibility, and ensure more sustainable maintenance. All walks and quarter-round curbs were replaced; all site furniture (benches, trash receptacles, lamp posts, metal edging, drinking fountains) was replaced; post-and-chain fencing was added; and some planting beds were replaced with turf.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type:

Designed

Other Use/Function

Urban Park

Leisure-Passive (Park)

Assembly Area

Outdoor Sculpture (Statuary)

Outdoor Recreation

Other Type of Use or Function

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:**Name**

Farragut Park

Farragut Square

Type of Name

Historic

Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted:

No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

| Year | Event | Annotation |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| AD 1791 | Established | The land now comprising Farragut Square was set aside for federal government use under the L'Enfant plan. Pierre Charles L'Enfant |
| | Purchased/Sold | The land was sold by Samuel Davidson to the United States government. Samuel Davidson |
| AD 1867 | Land Transfer | The land came under the jurisdiction of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG). |
| | Planned | Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Michler, Chief of the OPBG, recommended improving the parcel that soon became Farragut Square. Nathaniel Michler |
| AD 1869 | Removed | Temporary wooden structures occupying the site, used by the Freedman's Bureau during the Civil War, were removed. |
| AD 1871 | Memorialized | Congress authorized the erection of a memorial statue to Union Civil War hero Admiral David G. Farragut, and the naming of the square in his honor. |

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

David G. Farragut

| | | |
|---------|--------------|--|
| | Planted | The first trees and shrubs were planted. |
| AD 1872 | Built | Gas and water pipes were installed throughout the square. |
| AD 1873 | Built | Asphalt walks were constructed and bordered by sod. |
| | Built | The base for the statue was installed in the center of the square. Light posts, drinking fountains, and a cast-iron post-and-chain fence were erected. |
| | Altered | Connecticut Avenue was extended diagonally through the square, from the northwest corner to the southeast corner. |
| AD 1875 | Planted | The first flower beds were planted, interspersed among the trees and shrubs. |
| AD 1881 | Altered | The roadway through the square was removed and replaced with pedestrian walks. |
| | Memorialized | On April 25, 1881, a memorial statue of Admiral David G. Farragut, designed by Vinnie Ream Hoxie, was erected in the center of the square on the base that had been installed in 1873. |

Vinnie Ream Hoxie

| | | |
|---------|---------------|--|
| AD 1883 | Established | The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers included Farragut Square as Reservation No. 12 in its listing of 246 federal reservations. |
| AD 1928 | Land Transfer | A three-foot-wide strip of pavement on 17th Street, along the west side of Farragut Square, was transferred to the jurisdiction of the District Government (D.C. Commissioners) to permit widening of this street. |
| AD 1933 | Land Transfer | Farragut Square, along with the other reservations, was transferred to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. |

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|--|
| AD 1964 - 1968 | Rehabilitated | Seasonal floral displays were added to Farragut Square under the Johnson administration's Beautification Program for the National Capital, spearheaded by First Lady Lady Bird Johnson. |
| AD 1972 | Built | Because of the dense office population around Farragut Square, Farragut North and Farragut West Metro stations were built to the north and west of the square. |
| AD 2001 - 2004 | Rehabilitated | A major rehabilitation of Farragut Square was carried out during these years, including the replacement of paving, curbs, benches, light posts, drinking fountains, and trash receptacles. Floral display beds were reconfigured or removed. |
| AD 1790 - 1802 | Land Transfer | The three city commissioners appointed by President George Washington had jurisdiction over the reservations. |
| AD 1802 - 1816 | Land Transfer | Responsibility for the reservations was transferred from the three commissioners to a Superintendent of Public Buildings, also appointed by the president. |
| AD 1816 - 1849 | Land Transfer | The Superintendent of Public Buildings was replaced by a Commissioner of Public Buildings. |
| AD 1849 - 1867 | Land Transfer | The office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, with jurisdiction over the city reservations, was transferred from the authority of the president to the new Department of the Interior. |
| AD 1867 | Land Transfer | The reservations were transferred from the Commissioner of Public Buildings in the Department of the Interior to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, War Department. |

Physical History:

1791-1881: Early Land Transfers and Creation of Farragut Square

The land now occupied by Farragut Square appears on Pierre Charles L'Enfant's 1791 plan for Washington, D.C., as a rectangular open area set aside for ceremonial government use. The land was originally contained within a tract called "Port Royal," patented by John Peerce [sic] in 1687. Peerce's grandson, Edward Peerce, later sold part of the tract to Samuel Davidson, and in 1791 Davidson sold the land to the U. S. government. (Arnebeck, 47) As stated in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) report for Farragut Square, "Although it was not among the seventeen parcels purchased for public park land and federal reservations, it was part of the more than 3606 acres acquired at no cost to the government for the creation of streets and alleys." (HABS:1-2) The plot remained unimproved until after the Civil War. During the war, two Union batteries encamped there, and the Freedman's Bureau – whose headquarters were a block to the south – built temporary wooden office buildings on the square.

The first of the large mansions that would characterize the Farragut Square neighborhood in the late nineteenth century rose in the 1850s. The imposing Italianate house of George Riggs, founder of Riggs Bank, stood on the north side of I Street, just off the square (built 1856, destroyed 1936). The deed transferring ownership of Alaska from Russia to the United States was signed in the library of the Riggs house. In 1858, Riggs's brother and partner, Elisha, built an unusual mansard-roofed house, embellished with numerous Gothic Revival details, at the corner of 17th and I streets. Later owned by Brig. Gen. Albert S. Myer (founder of the Army Signal Corps and namesake of Fort Myer in Arlington), it came to be known as the Myer House. In the years following his death, Myer's family built two additional residences on the same block. (Goode 2003:various entries) North of the park, at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and K Street, stood the three ornate Second Empire rowhouses that formed Shepherd's Row (1873, destroyed 1952), named after the occupant of the largest, corner unit, Alexander "Boss" Shepherd. The owner of the central house was the structure's architect, Adolph Cluss.

After the Civil War, the military assumed control of public property in Washington through the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG), formed in 1867 as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The first officer in charge, Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Michler, immediately recommended improving the plot in concert with the corresponding area two blocks east, where Vermont Avenue had recently been removed to create a large rectangular park (Scott Square, soon to be renamed McPherson Square; Annual Report of the Chief Officer, OPBG, 1868:11) However, in 1871 – two years after the Freedman's Bureau structures were removed – Connecticut Avenue was constructed diagonally through the tract, dividing it into two triangular plots.

The improvements to Connecticut Avenue were undertaken as part of the enormous program of civic improvements carried out during the short tenure of the Territorial Government and its Board of Public Works, spearheaded by Alexander Shepherd. Between 1871-1874, hundreds of streets were graded, paved, and lined with trees, and thousands of pipes were laid for sewer, water, and gas. As one of the city's important thoroughfares, Connecticut Avenue was paved

as a twenty-four-foot wide roadway, extending north from Lafayette Square to the city's boundary at Florida Avenue, and lined with "aspens" trees (the "aspens" were likely cottonwoods, judging from more detailed information known about Franklin Park, four blocks to the east; see also HABS 2). In the same decade, trolley tracks were laid down the center of the avenue.

After the war, one manifestation of a reinvigorated nationalism was the widespread erection of public monuments. (Barsoum 2004:17) In 1871, Congress authorized that this tract of land on Connecticut Avenue, between K and I streets, would be named Farragut Square after Admiral David G. Farragut, hero of the Battle of New Orleans and the Battle of Mobile Bay, and that a memorial statue would be erected in its center. An elliptical area for the statue was laid out in the center of the roadway.

Most improvements to the new Farragut Square were carried out in 1871 and 1872. The soil was replaced, and gas and water pipes were laid for lighting and irrigation. The land was enclosed with a picket fence; picket and high wooden fences were erected around many city reservations to prevent the incursion of the cows, pigs, and other animals that roamed freely through the city streets. (Annual Report 1872)

The first trees and shrubs were planted, and the open ground was seeded with Kentucky bluegrass. A paved sidewalk was laid along I Street. Asphalt walks lined by sod were constructed through the park (in subsequent decades, the resurfacing of asphalt walks became a frequent maintenance chore in Farragut Square and other city parks). The picket fence was soon replaced by an iron post-and-chain fence, and an elaborate structure combining a lamppost and drinking fountain, with attached cups, was installed. (Annual Reports; Olszewski 1968:17) The 1873 Annual Report noted that this work "completes the improvement . . . no further special appropriation will be requested."

In 1873 or 1874, maps of Farragut and Scott (McPherson) Squares were prepared by the city's public gardener, showing the roads, walks, fountains, drinking fountains, drains, and gas and water pipes. It was intended that future maps would also show trees and shrubs. (Annual Report 1874:11) The first flower beds were created in 1875. Three years later, it was proposed that flower beds be integrated with the park's landscape, rather than having the flowers planted in rows, as had been done previously. Benches were first installed in 1877.

Though having Connecticut Avenue extend as a "carriageway" (Annual Report 1881:2713) through the square was convenient for traffic approaching Jackson Place and the White House, it proved hazardous for pedestrians and park visitors. By 1877 the District Engineer Officer was recommending that this roadway be removed from Farragut Square and replaced by suitable pedestrian walks. (Olszewski 1968:17)

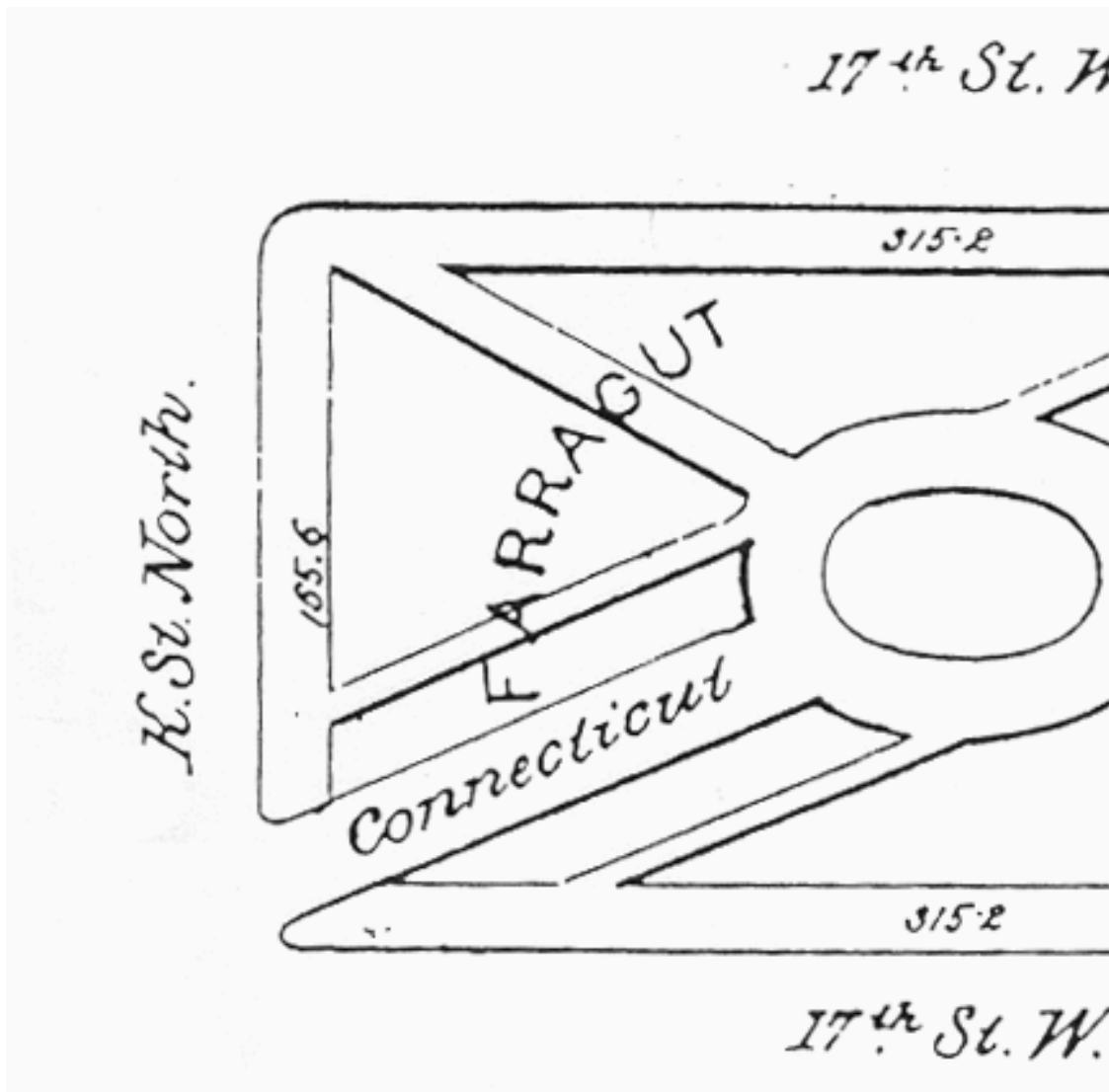
When the Farragut statue was finally erected in 1881, the roadway was removed. The remaining space was filled to grade and sodded over. Granite curbs were placed across the former openings and the post-and-chain fencing was extended to form a continuous barrier around the park. A new pair of parallel walks was constructed, maintaining the diagonal axis

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

through the park. Before the monument's dedication on April 25, some trees and shrubs were "temporarily" removed to allow for construction of temporary viewing stands for the statue's unveiling. After the ceremony, the plants were replaced "and the grounds rearranged." (Annual Report 1881:2713; what this "rearranging" entailed is not known.) The statue was dedicated on the nineteenth anniversary of Farragut's victory in the Battle of New Orleans. The elaborate ceremonies included a parade and speeches by dignitaries.

The Farragut monument – the first memorial to a naval hero constructed in Washington – was the work of Vinnie Ream Hoxie. Notable as an early woman sculptor, Hoxie was also the widow of Richard Hoxie, the Engineer Officer serving on the City Board of Commissioners that replaced the Territorial Government in 1874. The ten-foot-tall bronze statue was cast from the propellers of Farragut's ship, the U.S.S. Hartford, and portrayed him standing on its deck holding a spyglass. (Goode 1974:101) The elliptical mound on which the base stood was planted with flowers.



Earliest known plan of Farragut Square, 1876, showing Connecticut Avenue bisecting the rectangle into two right triangles while leaving an open, oval-shaped area in the center. North is to the left. (City Lots, Real Estate Atlas, NARA RG 42 230)



An example of the type of post-and-chain fencing that surrounded Farragut Square and other downtown reservations from the 1870s through 1904/1905. This fence remains at Reservation 251 in Southeast. (CLP digital photo historic post and chain 200 crop)

1881-1932: Center of a Residential Neighborhood

Over the next eighty years, few alterations were made to the basic design of Farragut Square. In 1883, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds established Farragut Square as Reservation No. 12 of the federally owned spaces in Washington, D.C. (Olszewski 1968:7) One-thousand linear feet of twenty-two-inch wide brick gutters were placed around the square in 1884, along with drainage pipes. Spring bulbs were planted in the flower beds. The most important changes over the decades were the replacement of the iron post-and-chain fence with concrete curbing in 1904, the installation of a new gas lighting system in 1912, and the replacement of gas lights with electric in 1923.

Today, the neighborhood surrounding Farragut Square presents a vastly different picture from the largely residential environs of its early years. With McPherson Square and Lafayette Park, in the late nineteenth century Farragut Square formed a nucleus for a district of fine mansions, prestigious residential apartments, and prosperous hotels, providing homes for congressmen, senators, Supreme Court Justices, cabinet members, diplomats, and wealthy industrialists who moved to Washington for the social and political connections the city offered. Like other nearby mansions, the grand homes near Farragut Square provided the settings for lavish parties, weddings, and receptions, and sometimes hosted visiting royalty. The architecture of these

houses reflected all the richness and visual complexity of the Victorian and Beaux-Arts eras. (The information in the following paragraphs is derived from James Goode, *Capitol Losses*, 2nd edition, 2003.)

The Gothic Revival Myer house of 1858 was demolished in 1911 for the Army Navy Club, which is still standing, though greatly altered by a 1983 expansion. The first building to house the Army Navy Club was a five-story brick Romanesque Revival structure, built in 1891 at the southeast corner of 17th and I Streets. Its unusual corner tower included a double-story observation platform capped by a small conical roof. For years, this was the tallest building near the park. It stood until 1962.

Facing the east side of Farragut Square across 17th Street was an early work of the important Washington architect Joseph C. Hornblower, the house of Naval Captain Nathan Sargent (1883-razed 1966). This structure “combin[ed] a Richardsonian massing of elements and materials with Queen Anne details” (Goode 2003:111); its prominent front gable, ornamented with scrolls, finials, and patterned brickwork, sheltered an arched entrance. With partner James R. Marshall, Hornblower also designed the Tuckerman House of 1886 (destroyed 1967), one block west of Farragut Square on I Street, a unique interpretation of the Romanesque Revival.

Many other notable buildings stood near Farragut Square. To the south were the fine houses surrounding Lafayette Square: the neoclassical Slidell House (1845, destroyed 1922), flanked on the west by the William W. Corcoran house (partner with George Riggs in Corcoran and Riggs bank), redesigned by James Renwick in the Romanesque Revival, and to the east the Hay-Adams houses (1884-1927), two joined houses designed by Henry Hobson Richardson, one of the most important of American architects. Another Richardson house stood several blocks to the north. Immediately north of the Corcoran House, on Connecticut Avenue, rose the massive, richly Baroque block of the Rochambeau Apartment House, by Washington architect Thomas F. Schneider. Crowned by a huge French lantern, the Rochambeau formed a major element of the view south from Farragut Square from its erection in 1903 until its demolition in 1962. To the north, just beyond Shepherd’s Row on Connecticut Avenue, rose the enormous Stoneleigh Court Apartment House, built in 1902 and demolished in 1965.

Numerous other great houses by renowned architects lined K Street and the other thoroughfares east of Farragut Square, extending to Franklin Park and beyond. All were destroyed in the decades after World War I – some to provide building sites for commercial structures, others to allow room for parking lots.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many parks in downtown Washington were enclosed either with the iron post-and-chain used at Farragut and McPherson squares or by high iron fences, used at such parks as Franklin Park, Lafayette Park, and Lincoln Park on Capitol Hill. In 1903, Congress acted to remove many of these barriers and replace them with concrete curbing: “It being the wish of Congress that the public parks should be as open as possible, all the former high iron fences have been removed, except where absolutely needed.” (Annual Report 1903:2534) This directive seems to have applied to the low post-and-chain fences as well. The 1903 Annual Report noted that Farragut Square had, in addition to “one

Farragut Square

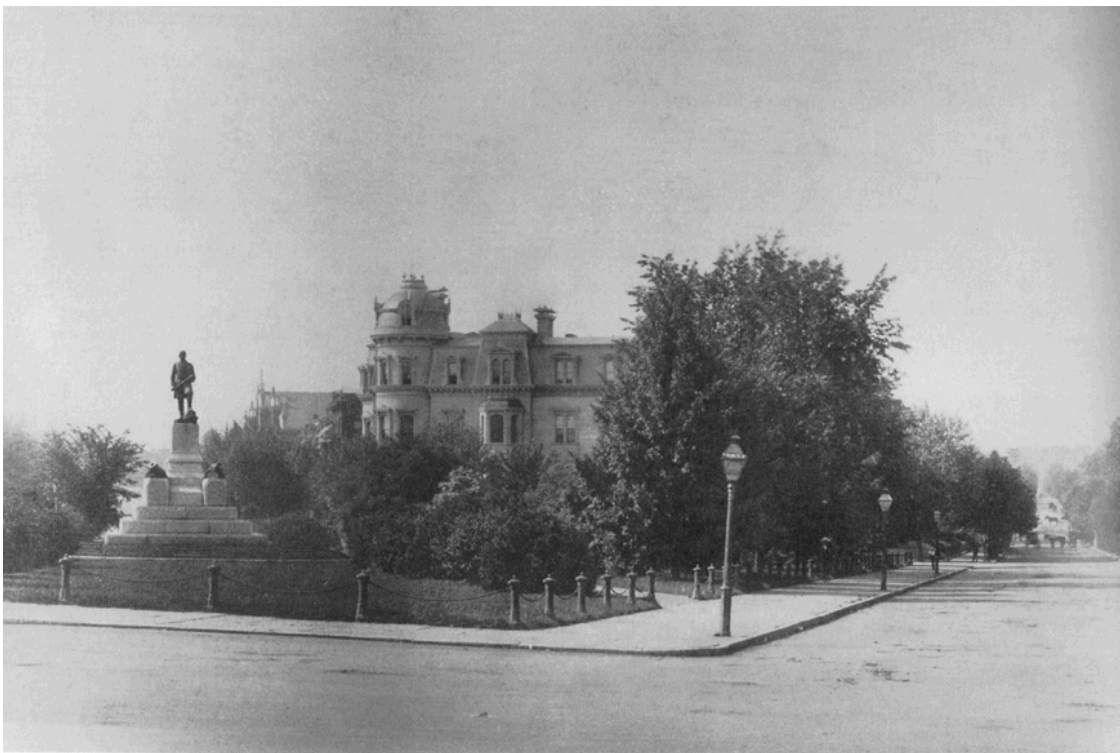
National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

drinking fountain, two lamps, [and] eight lamp posts,” 130 iron posts supporting 995 feet of chain. The drinking fountain was likely the original combined drinking fountain-lamp post structure; why there were eight light posts but only two lamps is not known.

By the following year, Farragut Square’s post-and-chain fence had been replaced with “stone” – concrete – curbing: 1095 feet of curbing with fourteen corner posts (seven pairs). The ground behind the curbing was raised and covered with sod. (Annual Report 1904:2818. This Annual Report included an elevation, plan, and section of the new quarter-round curbs; these were used throughout in nearly all the downtown parks wherever fences had been removed.)

In 1911, it was discovered that the Farragut statue had shifted because it had never been bolted to its pedestal. It was moved, reset, and bolted down.

The following year, a new system of lighting was installed in the D.C. parks. Work began in April and the lamps were first lit on September 10. (Annual Report 1913:3218) After the work was completed, Farragut Square had two old and two new gas lamps.



This photograph of c. 1887 shows post-and-chain fencing; gas lamps along 17th St.; lush yew and box shrubs; specimen trees; Shepherd's Row; and horses and carriages in distance. (CLP digital file Graphics/final illus May 2004/1887 photo 2 rev)



Early twentieth-century view from southeast are large specimen shrubs, and flower beds in center of grass panels. (CLP digital photofile Farragut Square/final illus. May 2004/c. 1904-1922 birdseye rev)'

1933-1963: The Neighborhood Changes Character

In 1933, most of the city's parks were transferred from the jurisdiction of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks to the National Capital Parks of the National Park Service. The National Park Service has maintained Farragut Square since that time. (Olszewski 1968:29) The naturalist's office of the National Capital Region compiled an inventory of the trees in Farragut Square in 1942. The list was displayed in a case in the park. ("Trees and Shrubs of Farragut Square," U.S. Office of National Capital Parks, 1942.)

Gradually, over the middle decades of the twentieth century, the neighborhood around Farragut Square began to lose its residential character. Mansions were supplanted by commercial and institutional structures. The destruction of the nineteenth-century residential buildings facing Farragut Square continued: Shepherd's Row was razed in 1952, the old Army Navy Club building in 1962, and the Sargent house in 1966. In the late 1950s, about thirty new commercial structures rose near the park. Most were modernist office blocks of concrete, glass, and steel. Many doctors and lawyers located their practices in the area, and numerous federal and other institutional offices were built. Workers from nearby offices enjoyed lunch in the park on warm days.

The intense parking problem that followed the boom in commercial construction posed a grave threat to Farragut Square. In the late 1950s, it was proposed that parking garages be built

beneath some of the downtown reservations, including Farragut Square, with the parks themselves converted into landscaped roofs. The National Park Service joined with the Committee of 100 to defend the integrity of the reservations, stating: "Conversion of historic Farragut Square into the roof of a parking garage is, the Committee thinks, completely unjustified, and would establish a precedent for the desecration of other irreplaceable downtown parks." (HABS 5) The idea was abandoned, and builders were urged instead to incorporate parking garages beneath new office buildings. From this event, the National Park Service evolved one of its basic policies for the permanent administration of the seventeen original park reservations: none of the park areas included in the original plan of the Nation's Capital would ever be considered for underground parking. (HABS 4-5, which also cites Stern and Whitten 1962)



The Admiral David G. Farragut statue stands on the axis of Conn. Ave., defined in the park by the parallel walks. The pre-1886 sophora is visible to the right. (CLP digital photofile Farragut Square/add Nov. 2004/statue and sophora CLR 300)

1963-1967: The Beautification Program

Significant changes were made to the planting of Farragut Square during the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson. T. Sutton Jett, Regional Director of the National Capital Parks, authorized \$17,000 for the rehabilitation of the square on July 18, 1963. Apparently, this money was used for work undertaken under the aegis of the Johnson administration's Beautification Program, an effort inspired and led by the First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson.

Officially in existence from 1964 through 1968 (though continuing in fact into the 1970s), the Beautification Program focused on projects in Washington, D.C., with a broad mandate for landscape improvements and park rehabilitation. Projects included the planting of trees, shrubs, and floral displays; the creation or rehabilitation of playgrounds; and highway beautification. The National Park Service established a Beautification Task Force in National Capital Parks, where work was handled by staff landscape architects.

Lyndon B. Johnson's own advancement of environmental issues was considerable, from his establishment of a Task Force on Natural Beauty in 1964 to his addition of over 3.6 million acres to the National Park System. But Lady Bird Johnson became the most public face of environmental interests to be associated with the Johnson administration, aided and supported by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

Lady Bird sought concrete results through her Beautification Program: "My criteria of a project is that it receive the fullest human use – that it be well cared for – and a third ingredient – that the desire for it emanate from the neighborhood and the users." (quoted in Gould 1988:103) The program's implementation in Washington consisted of two parts. The first involved the installation of massed flowering plants around monuments, tourist areas, and entrance roads into the city, dubbed the "daffodils and dogwoods" approach. Lady Bird Johnson expressed her vision of beautification as "plant[ing] masses of flowers where the masses pass." (Gould 1987:159) The second part, the improvement of inner-city neighborhoods with plantings, playgrounds, and clean-up projects, reflected Lady Bird's desire to involve and affect all citizens.

In Farragut Square, trees, shrubs, and seasonal floral displays were added. Site furnishings, such as new benches and trash cans, were installed. Separate planting plans for spring, summer, and fall floral displays were developed in 1964.

In November 1966, an investigation was conducted of the condition of the park's thirty-year old water system, including lines, branch lines, and sprinkler boxes. Farragut Square also served as a testing ground for the "parks are for people" idea, with the placement of portable chairs and tables in the square. (Washington Star, April 17, 1967)

1968-2005: Minor Changes and Major Rehabilitation

In the 1970s, an underground rail line was built in the District of Columbia, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit system, known as "Metro." The subway passes under Farragut Square, with stations serving two different lines located near the park: Farragut North and Farragut West. Construction interrupted use of the park for several years. (HABS 5)

A wayside was erected near the Farragut statue in 1996 to interpret the admiral's accomplishments, the statue's history, and the career of Vinnie Ream Hoxie. The project was proposed and funded by the Naval Order of the United States, National Capitol Commandery. (National Capitol Commandery, Proposal for Farragut Statue Marker Project, Oct. 23, 1996)

Between 2001 and 2004, several projects were undertaken to rehabilitate Farragut Square,

improve its appearance and accessibility, and ensure more sustainable maintenance. All sidewalks and quarter round curbs in the interior of the park were replaced; the bus waiting area was lengthened to create a safer and more pleasant space for pedestrians; drainage problems were corrected; all site furniture (benches, trash receptacles, light posts, metal edging, drinking fountains) was replaced; post-and-chain fencing was added; and the irrigation and electrical systems were replaced. The turf areas were increased in size and the floral display beds were reduced in size and renovated. On the west side, the quarter-round curb was removed and reset two feet east into the park, providing additional space for the D.C. sidewalk. The drinking fountains (including a cast-concrete fountain that was a historic National Capital Region standard design) were replaced with two handicapped-accessible fountains. The street lamps were replaced with new Washington-Style light posts supporting Washington Globe lamps. The northeast and southwest corners were set back approximately five feet to accommodate for pedestrian traffic; this was also necessary at the northeast corner to meet ADA standards, since this corner had been cut back years ago when the District expanded 17th Street. (Memorandum, NPS-NCR, Oct. 30, 2000-May 15, 2002, and information in February 2004 and June 2005 from park staff; E-mail from Paige Muller, Director of Programming of the Golden Triangle BID, to Yiqing Yan, Aug. 18, 2003)

The work was sponsored by the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (BID). Farragut Square is considered the centerpiece of the Golden Triangle BID, a thirty-eight-block neighborhood encompassing Washington's entire Central Business District. The BID supplements District of Columbia services to improve Washington's urban center by making it appear cleaner and more attractive. (dcmarketingcenter.com/business)

For many years, a variety of noontime concerts have been held in the Farragut Square in warmer months. Recently, the Golden Triangle BID has sponsored the summer concerts, along with an outdoor movie series. (Muller, conversation with Yan, Aug. 18, 2003)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Within the L'Enfant Plan, Farragut and McPherson Squares each form part of a “patte d’oie” (goose foot), a standard element found in seventeenth-century Baroque landscape planning, in relation to the White House grounds and Lafayette Park. The spatial organization of Farragut Square has remained nearly the same since its design was completed in 1881. The park’s organization is largely equivalent to its circulation pattern, since major avenues define the boundaries and the internal walk system shapes the spatial division. The Admiral David G. Farragut statue provides a central focal point, the destination of all walks within the park. The park is bilaterally symmetrical along the northwest-southeast Connecticut Avenue axis.

Designated for federal ceremonial use in the L'Enfant plan, Farragut Square acquired a specific commemorative purpose in 1872 when Congress authorized it as the site for a memorial statue of Farragut. It has served as a public park since it was landscaped in the early 1870s. Originally, it was used primarily by the wealthy residents of the large mansions and rowhouses in the surrounding neighborhood. Today, most visitors are office workers from nearby buildings and commuters. The park attracts many crowds at lunchtime. Occasionally it provides a venue for concerts, movies, political rallies, and other events.

The rectangular plot is defined by several major city streets: K Street on the north, I Street on the south, and 17th Street on both the east and west sides, with Connecticut Avenue touching the northwest and southeast corners. The circulation pattern of Farragut Square has remained almost the same since the early 1870s. In 1873, Connecticut Avenue was cut through the square, from the northwest corner to the southeast. In 1881, the twenty-four-foot wide roadway was removed, replaced by a pair of parallel walks. Between the walks were grass panels. In the center, at an oval walk encircling the statue, this pair of parallel walks intersected with a single walk running northeast to southwest, constructed between 1871 and 1873. All walks through the park were first made of asphalt. (The layout is the mirror image to that of McPherson Square, two blocks to the east, except that the paved area around the central statue in Farragut Square is oval instead of circular.) In 1901, new gravel walks were constructed midway between K and I streets, running through the east and west grass panels to the central oval walk.

Over the years, walks and lawns have been cut back at certain points to accommodate pedestrian or vehicular traffic. The asphalt walks were replaced with concrete in 1931. The sidewalks, which had been paved with brick or flagstones, were also replaced with concrete at some point.

Internal views and major external vistas have changed little since the park’s creation. The main focal point within the park is still the Farragut monument. The major view along Connecticut Avenue extends through the square to the White House. From the park, it is possible to see the trees and statue in Lafayette Park to the southeast, and the trees and buildings along Connecticut Avenue to the northwest. The buildings surrounding the park and lining the avenues radiating from the park have changed greatly in appearance, use, and scale since the 1870s.

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

The focal point of Farragut Square is the statue of Civil War Admiral David G. Farragut, hero of the battles of New Orleans and Mobile Bay. Executed by the female sculptor Vinnie Ream Hoxie, the statue was dedicated in 1881. The ten-foot-tall bronze figure depicts Farragut standing on the deck of his ship, the U.S.S. Hartford, resting one foot on a capstan and holding a spyglass as he watches the progress of the Battle of New Orleans. The statue faces south, towards the White House and Farragut's home state of Kentucky. The three-tiered rusticated stone base and the classical pedestal are constructed of Maine granite. At each corner of the pedestal, a rusticated block supports a bronze mortar.

Quarter-round concrete curbs were installed along the outer edges of Farragut Square in 1904/1905, replacing an iron post-and-chain fence dating from 1873. The curbs terminated in small corner posts. Much of the curbing has subsequently been replaced in-kind (though the profile has sometimes varied from the original quarter round). Surrounding the Farragut statue is an iron fence installed in about 1936, a standard type designed for use in Washington's parks.

The lighting system of the square has undergone significant change. Structures that combined a gas lamp with a drinking fountain were first used. Probably only two stood within the park, placed at walk intersections near the statue. These were later replaced by simpler gas lamps. Two gas lamps were standing in the park in 1913, the year two new gas lamps were added as part of an entirely new lighting system installed throughout Washington's parks in that year. All park gas lights were likely converted to electricity in the early 1920s, following a plan developed in 1923 for new city lighting. The new light posts installed in Farragut Square after that year may have been classical posts supporting urn-shaped lanterns, the Washington Standard post and Washington Globe lantern.

At some point, the first electric light posts were replaced by light posts of a more modern, mid-twentieth-century design, composed of an eight-sided cast-iron pole, a simplified rendition of a classical column, surmounted by a stylized capital with a Lexan version of the standard urn-shaped Washington Globe lamp (Lexan is a thermoplastic resin material). Eight of these stood around the statue and along the walks. As part of the recent rehabilitation, these posts have been replaced by modern versions of the Washington Standard post supporting the Lexan Washington Globe lamp.

Benches were first installed in the park in 1877. Two types appear in historic photos from the 1880s, and a third in a 1927 image. Though differing in size, form, and ornamentation, all had light-weight iron structures supporting wood slats. (The same types of benches appear in historic photos of different downtown parks.) Until perhaps the 1920s, benches for the Washington parks seem to have been purchased from commercial suppliers by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, rather than being designed specifically for the parks. In the mid-1930s, heavier benches of a standard type, with simply curved cast-iron supports and wood slat seats and backs, were developed for the National Capital Parks.

The NPS standard bench was used in Farragut Square until 2002, when forty-six benches of a new, ADA-compliant design were installed. The two-seat benches have three arms. The elaborately

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

curved and scrolled cast-iron structures support seats made of purpleheart wood slats, an exotic, durable wood from sustainable sources. These benches are staggered along all the park's walks on the locations of the previous benches.

Two steel handicap-accessible drinking fountains, with a dish-shaped basin extended on a post from a cylindrical support, stand just off the central oval walk. Trash receptacles have a steel-slat barrel and flared top, and are supported on a single post; they are placed between benches along the park's walks. The Golden Triangle BID recently installed trash receptacles along the D.C. sidewalks around the square. These are of a similar design, except they rest directly on the ground rather than being supported on a central post. They are paired with cigarette receptacles that are a smaller version of the same design.

Limited signage is used in the park. The major sign is an interpretive wayside near the Farragut statue.

The first trees and shrubs were planted in Farragut Square in the early 1870s, and the lawns were sown with Kentucky bluegrass. Other trees and shrubs were planted periodically thereafter, resulting, by the late nineteenth century, in a wide variety of mostly native deciduous species – maples, elms, horse chestnuts, ashes, and sumacs – along with exotics, such as ginkgo and sophora, and some evergreens, including holly, yew, and arborvitae. Individual specimens of yews and boxwoods lined the parallel diagonal paths, and had become quite large by the early twentieth century.

A 1905 planting list and map recorded the location of each specimen. By this date, there were fewer exotic species. Several trees were added in the 1930s, and the yews and boxwoods were replaced with flower borders and privet hedges. The park had thirty-four deciduous trees in 1963. Eight littleleaf linden trees were planted in the 1970s. The number of trees growing in the square has slowly decreased over the years, from a high of ninety-two trees in 1886 to thirty today. Current species include lindens, oaks, maples, elms, crabapples, sophoras, ginkgo, ash, and horse chestnut, with a preponderance of lindens, two of which may date to the early twentieth century. The overall pattern of vegetation has not changed since the 1965 Beautification Plan.

The first flower beds, installed in the 1870s, were scattered on the lawns. Later, rectangular beds were created in the grass panels, subsequently replaced by flower borders along the panels. During the 1960s Beautification Program, seasonal floral displays were located along the inner edges of shrub beds at the northwest and southeast edges of the park. These have since been removed.

Overall, Farragut Square has medium integrity. The statue is in its original location. The original circulation system is intact, and the spatial organization and land use have not changed greatly. The statue of Admiral David G. Farragut fulfills L'Enfant's intention that the squares and circles in the District of Columbia be developed as places featuring "important structures, monuments and fountains". (L'Enfant Plan nomination, Section 8: 8) The memorial also stands as a symbol of renewed faith in the Union following the Civil War. The Farragut statue of 1881 remains as the park's focal point.

Most of the major tree species remain the same. The existing ginkgo and sophora trees date from before 1886. Other trees are older deciduous specimens likely dating from the period of significance, or newer deciduous trees occupying similar locations as older trees. The general pattern of planted trees has remained similar. The pattern and species of shrubbery and flower beds changed several times before 1965. Since 1965, few changes have been made to vegetation. The circulation system has changed slightly since the removal of Connecticut Avenue in 1881 – the paving materials have been altered and replaced, the two east-west spur paths were added in 1901, and sidewalks have been widened. Most small-scale features in Farragut Square have recently been replaced with non-historic features and therefore lack integrity. The exception is the quarter-round curbs around the park's perimeter (not those on the interior, which were not present historically); they do not accurately replicate the historic profile, so their integrity is low, but since they are in-kind replacements, they are contributing features.

Landscape Characteristic:

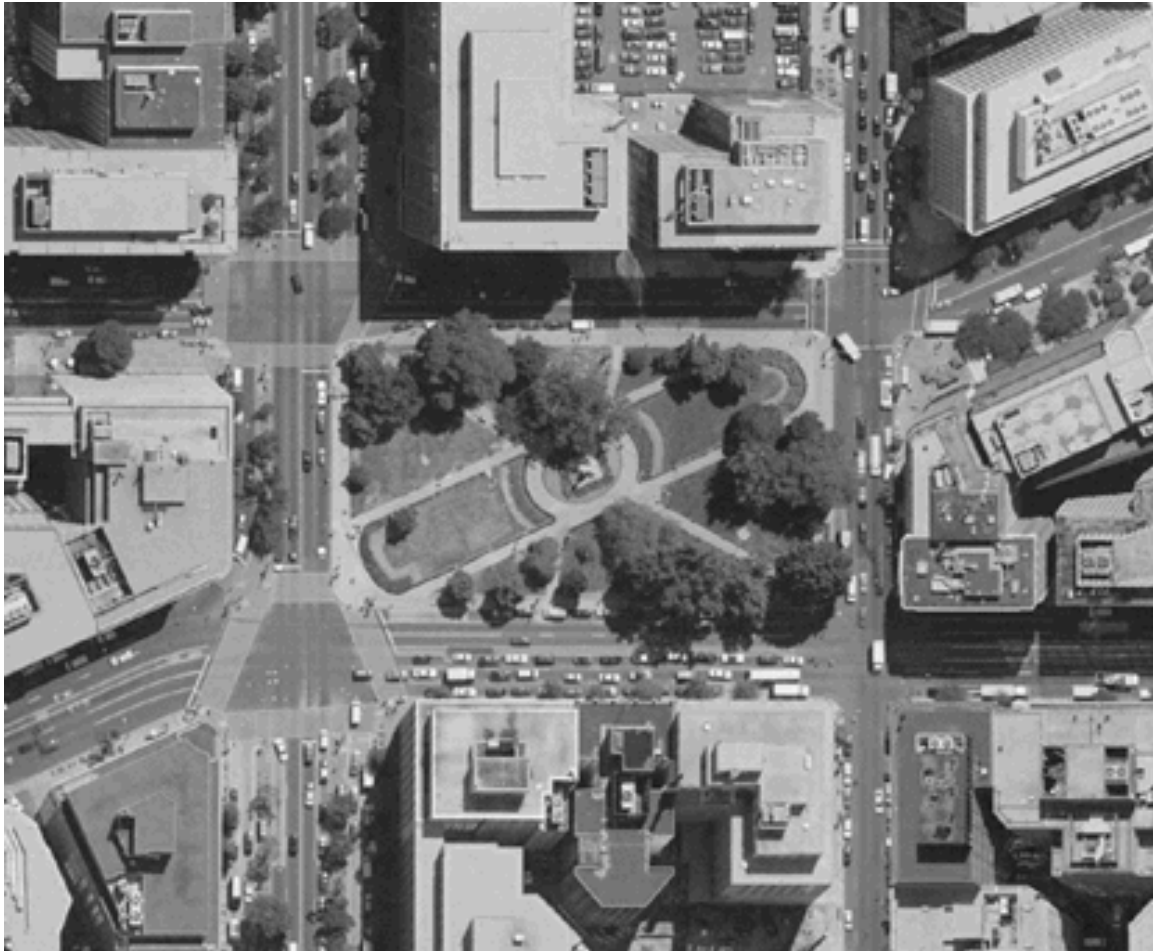
Spatial Organization

Farragut Square is part of the L'Enfant Plan. Within that plan, Farragut Square and McPherson Square (its sister park) have important locations along two diagonal streets (Connecticut and Vermont Avenues) that radiate out from the site of the White House. Along with 16th Street, which is situated between them and runs in a straight, north-south direction, they create the figure of a “patte d’oie” or “goose foot.” Such features were standard elements of Baroque planning, used, for example, at the grounds of Versailles, which influenced the plan of Washington. The symmetry of the patte d’oie arrangement of avenues focused attention on singularly important sites; in Washington, it was chiefly used near the White House and the Capitol building.

The small parks and reservations of the L'Enfant Plan, located at the intersections of various diagonal and gridded streets, provide open space with the intensely developed business districts and residential neighborhoods. These civic spaces give Washington, D.C., much of its character.

The park's spatial organization has remained almost the same since major construction and landscaping was completed in 1881. The space of the park is somewhat interchangeable with the circulation pattern in that walkways shape the spaces. It is a rectangular parcel bounded by major city streets. The square was formerly divided, between 1873 and 1881, into two right triangles by Connecticut Avenue. In 1881, the road was removed and replaced with lawn. The space is also shaped by its central focus, the Farragut statue. All walks lead to this center. There is symmetry between the two halves of the park. The major diagonal, along the alignment of Connecticut Avenue, divides the park into two triangles whose elements are roughly equivalent.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Farragut Square lies in the midst of Washington's central business district, surrounded by modern 12-story buildings. Little vegetation grows in the NW corner, lower left. (CLP digital photofile Farragut Square/add Nov. 2004/aerial 1999, broad BW rev.)

Land Use

Though included in L'Enfant's 1791 plan as federal space, it was not until 1872 that Farragut Square was established as the site for the memorial statue of Admiral David Farragut and was named in his honor. It has been used as a public park since major landscaping began in 1867. Local residents, office workers, and passers-by have been the primary users of the park, both historically and today. Thousands of workers pass through the park daily on their way to and from the adjacent Metro stations. Typical activities have been sunning and resting on the benches or the lawns, picnicking, feeding the birds, and, in recent years, enjoying summer concerts and films. Indigent people frequent the park, which presents issues for park management. The park is also a gathering place for the neighborhood. On November 25, 1963, thousands assembled in Farragut Square to pay their last respects to the late President John F. Kennedy as his funeral cortege passed by on its route from St. Matthew's Cathedral, a short distance to the north, to Arlington National Cemetery.

Circulation

Farragut Square is a rectangular plot defined by several major city streets: K Street on the north, I Street on the south, and 17th Street on both the east and west sides. The circulation pattern of Farragut Square has remained virtually the same since 1881. The layout is the mirror image of McPherson Square, two blocks to the east, except that in Farragut Square the walk around the central statue is oval instead of circular.

In 1873, Connecticut Avenue was cut directly through Farragut Square. The twenty-four-foot-wide section of paved roadway ran from the northwest to the southeast corner. Asphalt walks were constructed throughout the park in the same year, and in succeeding decades, gravel was regularly added to the walks and rolled to produce a smooth walking surface. An 1876 map shows the circulation pattern with Connecticut Avenue extending through the square.

This section of Connecticut Avenue was removed in 1881, at the time the Farragut statue was dedicated, and replaced by a pair of straight, parallel walks on the same alignment. An 1886 plan indicates that the circulation pattern has remained almost the same to the present day. Between the parallel walks were grass panels with flower beds. The pair of walks intersect with the oval one in the center of the square. A single walk leading from the northeast corner to the southwest also intersects with the oval walk surrounding the Farragut statue.

In 1901, new gravel walks were constructed midway between K and I streets, leading from 17th Street through the east and west grass panels to the central oval walk. Sometime before 1924, the southeast corner of the grass panel was rounded to make more space for pedestrians. (The corresponding northwest corner was not rounded until the early 1970s to protect an elm tree which grew in this corner.) In 1928, a three-foot-wide strip of pavement on the west side of 17th Street was transferred to the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia to permit widening of the street. Concrete replaced asphalt as a paving material in 1931. A map of 1933 shows that flagstone paving was formerly used for the sidewalks around the park (which are under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia) and that concrete was used for interior park walks. In 1962, a twenty-one-foot long section of the quarter-round curb along I Street was inset to allow installation of three benches and a trash can at an adjacent bus stop.

The central diagonal grass panels are sixty-feet wide, the oval walk is twelve-feet wide, and all other walks are eight-feet wide. As part of the 2004 rehabilitation, the sidewalk on the west side was widened to twelve feet. All the walks were replaced in-kind, in concrete divided into twenty-inch-square panels.

Character-defining Features:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Feature: | System of pedestrian walks |
| Feature Identification Number: | 101664 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| IDLCS Number: | 046801 |
| LCS Structure Name: | Farragut (Adm. David G.) Square - Pathway -Res. 12 |
| LCS Structure Number: | 01210000 |

Vegetation

Review of historic planting plans for Farragut Square allows some typical planting patterns to be identified. Trees in the square have generally been placed along streets and walkways, defining the boundaries of the park and the borders of the grass panels. Other trees have been clustered at internal intersections of walks or were planted randomly and picturesquely on the lawns. Particularly in earlier years, a single species of tree was used along streets – elms along the east 17th Street, lindens on K Street – while elsewhere in the park, a variety of deciduous species was used.

Historically, flower beds were used to emphasize the most important walkway, the parallel walks following the axis of Connecticut Avenue. Beds were first placed as a linear element down the center of the two panels; later they were moved to the sides, interspersed with large specimen shrubs; and, finally, they were used to accentuate the ends of the panels and the central statue. As of 2004, the flower beds at the far ends of the panels and around the base of the statue have been removed.

The first trees and shrubs were planted in Farragut Square in 1871; however, the number of plants and their species are not known. Two years later, twenty-three “hardy” trees and shrubs were added and the ground sown with Kentucky bluegrass seed. (Olszewski 1968:13) A variety of trees were planted in place of the old “aspens” (probably cottonwoods) that formerly grew along K Street. In 1874, more trees were planted: three “English” maples and three maples of another variety, two elms, and two horse chestnuts. These were among 600 trees purchased and transplanted in the parks of Washington that year.

The first flower beds were planted in 1875. These were interspersed between the trees and shrubs, and filled the area reserved for the statue in the center of the park. In 1878, it was proposed that the beds be made permanent. After the Farragut statue was installed in 1881, a flower bed was planted in the oval bed around its base.

In 1886, George H. Brown, the “public gardener” for the Office of Public Buildings and Public Grounds, prepared a list of all trees and shrubs in Farragut Square. The list includes fourteen types of deciduous trees, seven types of evergreen trees, seven varieties of deciduous and one variety of evergreen shrub, making a total planting of ninety-two trees and seventy shrubs. Following is Brown’s list (historic nomenclature has been retained):

Deciduous Trees

ash (*Fraxinus*): 4
buckeye (*Pavia*): 1
elm (*Ulmus*): 7

gingko (Salisburia): 4
horse chestnut (Aesculus): 3
hop tree (Ptelea): 1
Indian bean (Catalpa): 2
Judas tree (Cercis): 1
laburnum (Cytissus): 1
linden (Tilia): 5
maple (Acer): 24
mulberry (Morus): 1
sumac (Rhus): 3
sophora (Sophora): 2

Evergreen Trees

arborvitae (Thuja): 11
holly (Ilex): 1
Japanese cedar (Cryptomeria): 1
pine (Pinus): 3
spruce fir (Abies): 9
silver fir (Picea): 4
yew (Taxus): 4

Deciduous Shrubs

arrowwood (Viburnum): 2
deutzia (Deutzia): 6
goldenbell (Forsythia): 20
mock orange (Philadelphius): 6
privet (Ligustrum): 8
spirea (Spirea): 14
weigela (Weigela): 2

Evergreen Shrubs

box (Buxus): 12

By 1887, there was a regular rotation of flowers in the beds. In the summer they were planted with flowering and foliage annual bedding plants, and in the fall with chrysanthemums. In November, a variety of early spring-flowering bulbs, including hyacinths, tulips, and crocuses, replaced the chrysanthemums.

The earliest planting list to identify the location and type of each plant in the square was

produced in 1905. Following are the species and number:

Deciduous Trees

red ash (*Fraxinus pubescens*): 1
white ash (*Fraxinus americana*): 4
buckeye (*Aesculus flava*): 1
American elm (*Ulmus americana*): 3
gingko (*Salisburia adiantifolia*): 1
horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*): 3
American linden (*Tilia americana*): 2
European linden (*Tilia europa*): 3
Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*): 10
English field maple (*Acer capestis*): 1
red maple (*Acer rubrum*): 3
sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*): 1
ash-leaved maple (*Negundo aceroides*): 2
sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*): 1
Japanese pagoda tree (*Sophora japonica*): 2
yellowwood (*Cladrastis lutea*): 1

Evergreen Trees

English yew (*Taxus baccata*): 2
English golden yew (*Taxus baccata aurea*): 2
Austrian pine (*Pinus austriacus*): 1

Deciduous Shrubs

rough-leaved deutzia (*Deutzia scabra*)
goldenbell (*Forsythia viridissima*)
mock orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*)
California privet (*Ligustrum ovatifolium*)
variegated weigela (*Weigela rosea variegata*)

Evergreen Shrubs

box (*Buxus sempervirens*)

The park then had a total of forty-four trees. The list suggests how the square's planting had changed since the 1880s. There were fewer exotic species; native species had also been lost. Species which had disappeared included hop tree, Indian bean, Judas tree, laburnum, mulberry,

sumac, arborvitae, holly, Japanese cedar, fir, arrowwood and spirea. A single yellowwood had been recently planted.

A map accompanying the list shows a design consisting of a circular flower bed flanked by a pair of rectangular beds arranged along each of the central grass panels. Yews and boxwoods were planted symmetrically along each side of the panels next to the parallel walks. Historic photos show that these shrubs became quite large.

By 1918, four round flower beds had been added on the grass panels, arranged symmetrically around the central oval walk. The flower beds along the diagonal Connecticut Avenue axis were all rectangular. (1918 planting plan)

In 1930, some new trees were added: one English field maple, one Southern magnolia, three “Soule” – possibly *Soulangiana* – magnolias, one red oak, two American elms, four Japanese cherries, and two purple-leaf plums. (Olszewski 1968:16; all had been purchased from Rock Creek Nurseries.)

None of these specimens, however, appear in a plan dated 1933. This document shows that the four round flower beds, installed only twenty years previously, had been replaced by two curved beds set around the edges of the oval walk. New rectangular flower beds had been created bordering the two parallel walks, replacing the boxwood, and the flower beds on the grass panels had been removed and covered with sod. Hedges of California privet had been planted along the borders of the grass panels, the area surrounding the statue had been planted with shrubs, and two flowering crab apple trees and two Scotch elms had been added. The 1933 plan shows a total of forty-five trees.

In March 1942, the Naturalist’s Office of National Capital Parks produced a list of the trees and shrubs growing in Farragut Square. Rock cotoneasters, Chinese junipers, and Japanese yews were planted in the central statue area, and the flower beds were planted with red “Radiance” roses. A new species, rock elm, had been added. A total of forty-three trees and 297 shrubs were growing in Farragut Square in this year.

By 1963, more flower beds and shrubs had been added to the central area around the statue, along the central oval walk, and along the round ends of the central grass panels. The area immediately surrounding the statue was planted with azaleas and flowers and was bordered by a narrow grass strip. The six large yews growing near the parallel walks on the central axis had been, or were to be, replaced with azaleas and roses. The curved beds of azaleas and flowers near the oval walks were six feet wide, and the rose beds along the parallel walks were eight feet wide. Altogether, thirty-four trees, all deciduous, were growing in the park in 1963.

Beginning in 1965, seasonal floral displays were added to Farragut Square under the Johnson administration’s Beautification Program. The flower beds along the parallel walks were removed, and in the spring, the central area around the statue was planted with azaleas, and

roses of the “Saratoga” and “Fashion” varieties.

The floral display beds were typically planted in front of evergreen shrubs. The shrubs were a permanent feature, while the flowers were changed seasonally. Pansies bordered spring tulip beds, marigolds edged summer beds of zinnias, and the fall beds were planted entirely with chrysanthemums. Darwina Neal, Chief of Cultural Resources for the National Capital Region, in the mid-1960s was a landscape architect on the Beautification Task Force. She recalls that “after the first couple of years, plans were not done for each year for Floral Displays. Instead, there was a Master List of what would be in all NCR Floral Displays for each season and a Master Order was placed for all parks. . .” (Neal, review of draft CLI, February 2004)

In 1975, eight littleleaf linden trees and a sawtooth oak had been added. Thirty-four trees were growing in the square that year. By 1987, this number had decreased to thirty-two.

Today, thirty trees grow in Farragut Square, fourteen fewer than in 1905. They include eleven lindens, six oaks, three maples, three flowering crabapples, two elms, two sophoras, one ash, one horse chestnut and one ginkgo. The ginkgo on the southwest grass panel and the sophora on the northeast panel, the oldest remaining trees in the square, were planted before 1886. The two lindens on the southeast triangle grass panel are the same species as grew in this area in 1905, and may date from this time. The northwest part of the square is almost bare compared with the other parts.

Flower and shrub beds located at the outer edge of the grass panels along the main axis have been removed. This was done as part of the 2004 rehabilitation because the beds had been difficult to maintain and had provided a refuge for rats. The southeast end of the south panel was reconfigured and rounded to mirror the shape of the northwest end of the panel. The two flower beds near the statue have been reduced in size to provide a three-foot grass mowing strip along the sidewalks.

Character-defining Features:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Feature: | Grass panels |
| Feature Identification Number: | 101675 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |
| Feature: | Ginkgo on the southwest grass panel |
| Feature Identification Number: | 101674 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |
| Feature: | Sophora on the northeast grass panel |
| Feature Identification Number: | 101677 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

Feature: Seasonal flower beds

Feature Identification Number: 101676

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Trees dating from later than 1904 that replace historic trees in kind and location

Feature Identification Number: 101679

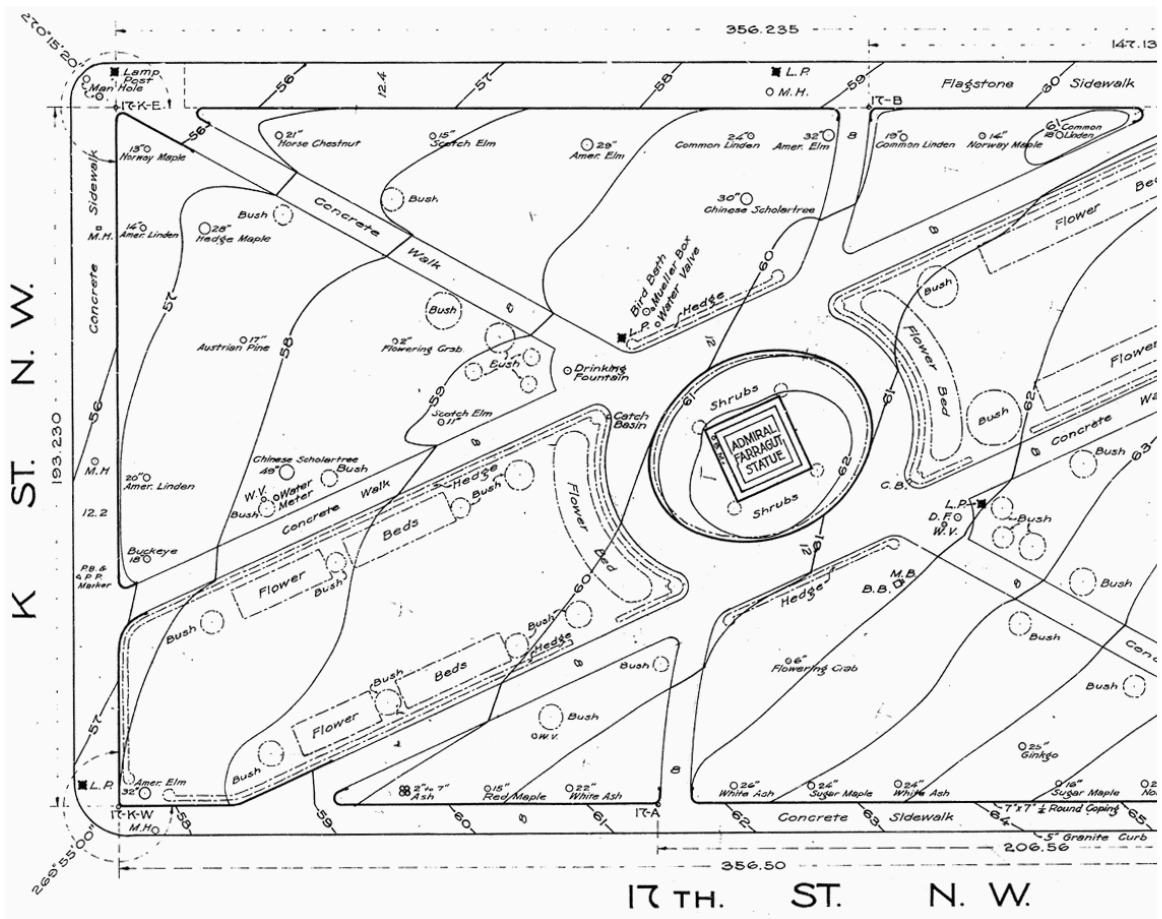
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trees dating from later than 1904 that do not replace historic trees in kind and location

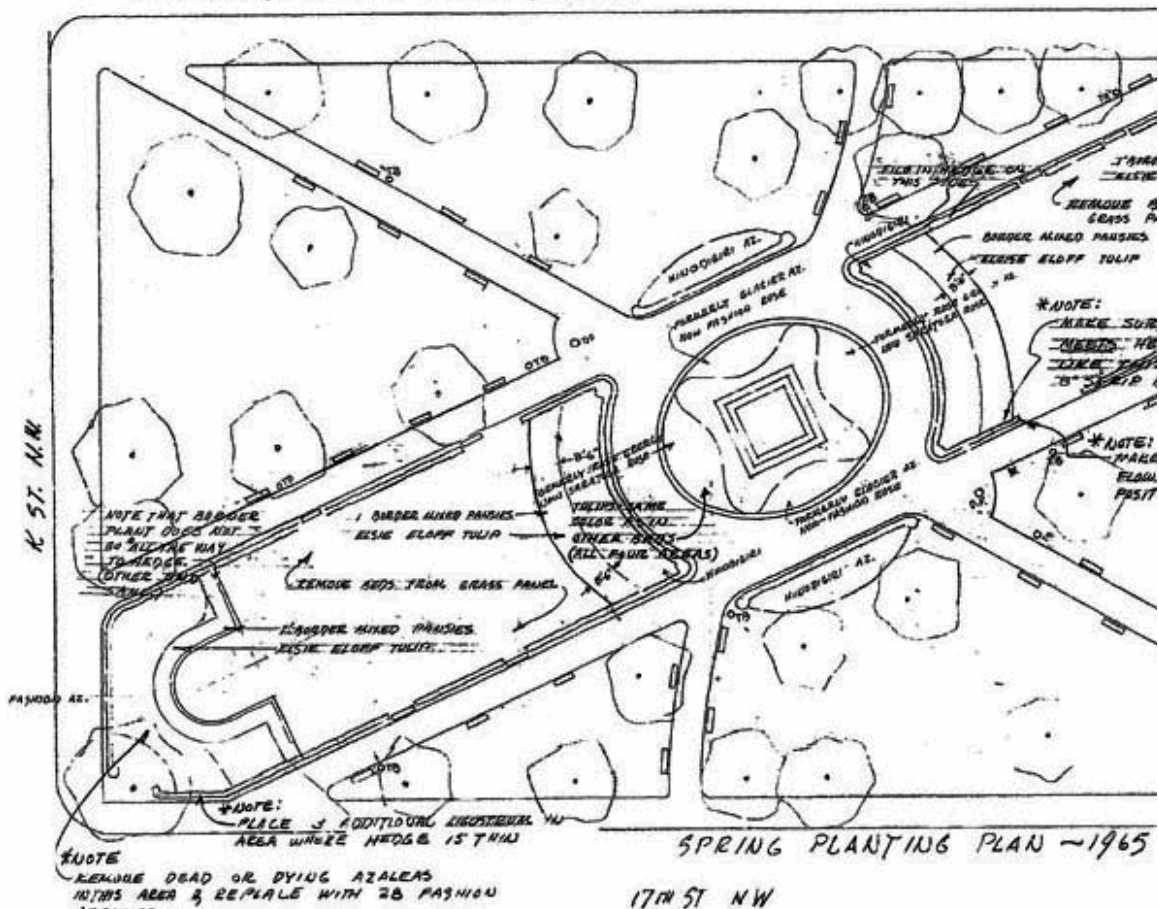
Feature Identification Number: 101678

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



| <u>PLANT LIST</u> | | <u>QUAN.</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>QTY.</u> |
|---|--------------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | ELIZIE ELOFF TULIP | | 3 | AZALEA - FASHION |
| 2 | MIXED PANSIES | | 4 | LEUCOTOM (EQUAL TO EXISTING) |
| NOTE: BEDS ARE TO BE EVENED UP & SQUARED UP AS SHOWN BY MEASUREMENT IN THE FIELD. DEAD AZALEAS ARE TO BE REPLACED. NOTE ALL OTHER NOTES ON THIS PAGE. | | | | 28 AS NEEDED 101 |
| | | | 17TH ST. NW | |



Buildings And Structures

The only structure in Farragut Square is the portrait statue of Civil War hero Admiral David Glasgow Farragut (1801-1870). The statue was erected by the U.S. government under a Congressional Act approved April 16, 1872 (17 Stat. 395), with an appropriation of \$20,000, and was dedicated on April 25, 1881. The monument followed L'Enfant's recommendation that the

squares and circles in the District of Columbia be developed as places featuring “important structures, monuments and fountains”. (L’Enfant Plan nomination, Section 8:8) The memorial also resulted from public support for the Union in the years following the Civil War.

David Glasgow Farragut joined the U.S. Navy at the age of ten, working his way up the ranks from cabin boy to become the first vice admiral and the first full admiral in the U.S. Navy; the rank, in fact, was created by Congress in his honor. Farragut fought in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War. During the Civil War, Farragut captured New Orleans from Confederate forces, during which he uttered the famous command, “Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead.” His leadership secured Union control of the Mississippi River. Lincoln characterized his appointment of Farragut as “the best made during the war.” (Goode 1974:101)

Vinnie Ream Hoxie, a celebrated woman sculptor, was selected as memorial designer by Farragut’s widow and Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, head of the memorial committee. Hoxie spent almost a decade completing the memorial. The ten-foot-tall bronze statue was cast from the propellers of the Admiral’s flagship, the U.S.S. Hartford, as were the four chopped mortars placed at the corners of the pedestal. Farragut is depicted standing on the ship’s deck, resting his right foot on a capstan and holding his telescope in his hands, as he watches the progress of a naval engagement. The statue faces south, towards the White House and Farragut’s home state of Kentucky. The three-tiered rusticated stone base supports a tall pedestal articulated with blocky, schematic classical moldings. Base and pedestal are constructed of Maine granite. The base apparently was designed by Orville Babcock, the Engineer Officer, OPBG, from 1871-77. (see discussion of the statue in Jacob 101-110)

At the time the statue was dedicated in 1881, a flower bed was laid out on the mound on which the base rests. Beneath the base was placed a copper box containing an account of Farragut’s service to the nation, a history of the statue, a copy of the Army and Navy Register, and a miniature bronze model of the U.S.S. Hartford’s propeller. (Goode 1974:101) The flower bed has since been replaced by lawn.

Maintenance of the statue includes occasional cleaning of the granite. Bronze stains were removed in 1898. In 1911, when the statue was lifted from the base to fix a problem of shifting, it was found that it had not been bolted down when installed in 1881. The statue was reset and securely bolted. (Olszewski 1968:28)

Character-defining Features:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Feature: | David G. Farragut Memorial |
| Feature Identification Number: | 101663 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |
| IDLCS Number: | 007315 |
| LCS Structure Name: | Farragut (Adm. David G.) Statue - Res. 12 |
| LCS Structure Number: | 01210001 |

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The Admiral David G. Farragut statue stands on a heavily rusticated podium. It is placed on line with the axis of Connecticut Ave. (CLP digital photofile Farragut Square/add Nov. 2004/Farragut statue, looking N BW 300)

Views And Vistas

Within Farragut Square, the focal point is the Farragut monument. The major vista is along Connecticut Avenue through the square to Lafayette Park. From the park, it is possible to see the trees and statues in Lafayette Park to the southeast, and the trees and buildings along Connecticut Avenue to the northwest. Since the surrounding buildings are all relatively recent structures, views of them from the park have no historic integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Views to Farragut Monument

Feature Identification Number: 101682

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Vista to Lafayette Park along Connecticut Avenue corridor

Feature Identification Number: 101683

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View northwest up Connecticut Avenue corridor

Feature Identification Number: 101680

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Views from park to surrounding buildings

Feature Identification Number: 101681

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*View northwest up the Connecticut Avenue corridor; summer 2003. (CLP digital photofile
Graphics/FS/final illus May 2004/view NW up Conn. Ave. - rev BW)*

Small Scale Features

Fences and Curbs

In 1872, Farragut Square was enclosed with a wooden picket fence to prevent livestock from roaming freely through the site. The following year, portions of the picket fence were replaced with an iron post-and-chain fence; the picket fence was totally removed in 1875. (This post and chain might be more accurately referred to as bollard and chain, but for this CLI it has been decided to use the term found in the Annual Reports of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds.) The posts were in the form of short, squat columns in the shape of fasces – bundled rods around an ax, a conventional Roman symbol of authority – with molded bases and caps. The caps bore either the initials “OPBG” or a finial; the latter type was used at Farragut Square.

In 1904, the post-and-chain fence was taken out after Congress authorized the removal of all high fences around the city’s public parks to make these public spaces completely open. Over one thousand feet of concrete quarter-round curbing was installed in 1904 as a border between park lawns and sidewalks along adjacent streets. The sections of curbing terminated in square corner posts with pyramidal tops. The ground behind was raised to the new grade and sodded. (Annual Report 1924; 1924 inventory) “Trespass irons” – iron hoops – were placed around the central statue area and the flower beds.

Some sections of the extant curbing might be the original quarter-round from 1904. These are short sections of curbs made of concrete with a large aggregate, and they retain the square corner blocks with low pyramidal tops. The majority of curbing in the square was replaced in 2003-2004, and has a much finer, barely visible aggregate. Some of these newer sections have failed to maintain the quarter-round profile, and instead have irregularly squared profiles. Some of the new corner blocks are likewise shaped irregularly.

Curbing lines the street edges of the grass panels. It has recently been installed at the ends of the central northwest-southeast grass panels along the Connecticut Avenue axis, around the statue and the central plaza, where formerly there were hedges and the ground abutted the paving with no demarcation.

Modern post-and-chain fencing lines most of the exterior edges of the park. The fencing is a type currently used in downtown parks, composed of simple steel posts surmounted by pointed finials, with chains attached to steel loops at either side of the tops of the posts. The posts and chains are painted steel, and the “acorn”-style caps are painted iron. In some areas, they are set into concrete foundation strips, installed in 2004 to make mowing easier.

An iron fence was first installed around the oval planting area around the statue in about 1936. The decorative fence has panels defined by alternating lighter and heavier posts, with the openings between subdivided by lighter vertical bars. Along the top runs a simple, open fascia element, containing scrollwork in some panels. Urn-shaped finials top the primary posts.

Steel landscape edging is used between walks and lawns in some areas.

Lamp Posts

In 1873, a structure combining a drinking fountain with a gas lamp was installed in Farragut Square. (Annual Report, 1873.) A historic photo from the collection of National Capital Parks-Central shows a tall, square classical pedestal of molded brick. In the center of the visible face is what appears to be a lion's head holding a spigot for drinking water. The pedestal supported a short classical column, probably made of cast iron, surmounted by a large, apparently hexagonal lantern terminating in a curving iron hood topped with a finial. An aerial photograph of the early twentieth century indicates that one of these structures was located southwest of the statue, a short distance down the walk; another may have occupied a similar location to the northwest.

Annual Reports issued by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds note that, by 1903, Farragut Square had two lamps but eight lamp posts. The following year, only two lamps were listed. The reason for this discrepancy is not known. Though electric arc lighting had begun to be installed in certain city parks in the 1890s, Farragut Square continued to be lit solely by gas lights for many years. A photograph from 1887 shows a line of three gas lights regularly spaced along the 17th Street sidewalk on the square's east side. These lights had simple fluted posts carrying square lanterns with glazed roofs, a type common on Washington streets for decades; historic photographs reveal that this type was used along Connecticut Avenue from Farragut Square at least as far north as Dupont Circle.

Two new gas lamps were added to Farragut Square's existing two in 1912: "The work of installing an entirely new system of lighting in the parks, which was commenced April, 1912, was completed, and the new lamps were lighted on September 10, 1912." (Annual Report 1913:3218) The two older lamps were likely soon removed, since a 1920 inventory notes the presence of only two gas lamps in the square.

In 1923, a comprehensive plan was developed to convert all city street lighting from gas to electricity, and to institute standards for municipal lighting. As part of this effort, artist Francis Millet of the Commission of Fine Arts developed the fluted, classical Washington Standard post for use with his urn-shaped Washington Globe lamp (he designed the originals of both in about 1912). It is not known whether these lamps were installed in Farragut Square. Most likely, the existing gas lamps in Farragut Square were fitted for electricity after this year, using the frosted-glass globe commonly employed in the city for electric arc lamps.

Thus far, little documentation has been found regarding the lighting of Farragut Square in the middle decades of the twentieth century. A 1968 plan indicates that the two existing incandescent lamps had "pedco" posts and that ball globes were to be removed and replaced with nine new "style king" luminaries fitted with Washington globes and mercury vapor lamps. What style was indicated by these names is not known.

Before the recent rehabilitation, the light posts in Farragut Square were composed of highly simplified classical columns, with eight concave sides and a stylized classical capital, carrying Lexan (a thermoplastic resin) versions of the Washington Globe. These light posts were recently replaced with ten “14N Washington Style” posts – fourteen-foot-tall Washington Standard posts bearing the Lexan urn-shaped Washington Globe lanterns, modern versions of the historic city post and lamp designs. The four light posts closest to the four corners include an electrical outlet for use during special events.

Benches

Benches were first installed in Farragut Square in 1877. It is not known how many were placed in that year, but six more were added in 1884. A photo dated c. 1887 shows a single-seat bench with a slatted seat and three-slat back. The iron structure had slightly curved iron legs, with heavy joints where the central support bar beneath the seat joined with side bars running between the front and back legs. A c. 1888 photo shows a second type of bench, made of slats forming a seat and back in a continuous S-curve. An inventory of 1924 reports there were forty-four benches in the park but does not describe them. A 1927 photo shows a third type, a bench with two slats at the back.

Until recently, the park was outfitted with a type of bench that had been designed in the mid-1930s as a standard design for use throughout the National Capital Parks. These were designed to be heavier than the earlier benches, and were made to be bolted to the walks. The new benches had separate, rather than continuous, wood-slat seats and backs. A cast-iron supporting structure had a semicircular brace connecting the rear legs, struts curving from the rear brace to the side legs, and a segmentally curved brace running from rear legs to front. Some struts terminated in simple decorative scrolls. These benches were staggered along the walks throughout the park. Today, only three of this variety remain, along the I Street sidewalk at the bus stop.

The forty-six benches currently in the park were installed in 2002, then removed for the park's rehabilitation and reinstalled in 2004. These are a new design with three arms – two side arms and a center arm. The cast-iron supporting structure has curving legs, arms, and struts, with legs at either side joined by a single straight strut. The iron seat back and arms terminate on each side in a scroll containing a flat disk that bears the National Park Service arrowhead. The continuous slats are made of dense, rot-resistant purpleheart wood. The benches are staggered along all the walks. Replacement of the Farragut Square benches was funded by the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District.

Drinking Fountains

As stated above, the first drinking fountain in Farragut Square, erected in 1873, was a decorative Victorian structure that combined a drinking fountain with a lamp post. It is not

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

known when this was removed. By 1925, two drinking fountains stood on the site, but their style is not known. In 1931, these were replaced with a standard type of drinking fountain that had been developed for the National Capital Parks, a tiered, octagonal concrete post in a simple Art Deco style.

Two drinking fountains are in the park today. Both are handicap-accessible steel fountains with a dish-shaped drinking basin extended from a cylindrical post on a perpendicular arm.

Trash Receptacles

According to the 1924 inventory, three trash baskets were located in the park in the early 1920s. Wire mesh trash receptacles were in use from 1931. In the 1960s, the NPS standard tulip-type trash receptacle was installed. These had painted metal liners (with plastic inserts for easy emptying) and vertical wood slats, and were supported by a metal post.

The current trash receptacles are barrel-shaped steel-slat containers with a flared top, supported on a single post and with a separate trash barrel fitted inside. These are found throughout the park, placed along walks between the benches.

The Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (BID) placed receptacles along the city-owned sidewalks in 2002. They are similar in design to the park receptacles, though with a broad base resting directly on the ground rather than a single post. On the side they bear the Golden Triangle BID emblem. Paired with cigarette receptacles, a smaller version of the same design, they are located near street corners (some corners have two pairs) or halfway along the park's long sides.

Signs

Over the years, Farragut Square has had relatively simple signage. Signs reading "keep off the grass" were installed in 1875 when the picket fences were removed in preparation for the construction of the iron fences. In 1942, a list of trees and shrubs in the park was placed under a glass bulletin board erected in the park.

Other signs now around the park include standard parking and other restrictive signs. In 1996, an interpretive wayside was placed next to the statue to provide information on Admiral Farragut's accomplishments, the statue's history, and sculptor Vinnie Ream Hoxie. The project was proposed and funded by the Naval Order of the United States, National Capital. (National Capital Commandery, Naval Order of the United States, Proposal of Farragut Statue Marker Project, Oct. 23, 1996)

Miscellaneous

One modern bus shelter is located along the I Street sidewalk.

Character-defining Features:

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

Feature: concrete curbing around outside edges of grass panels (original, if any, and replacement)

Feature Identification Number: 101666

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: iron fence around statue

Feature Identification Number: 101670

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 046802

LCS Structure Name: Farragut (Adm. David G.) Square - Fence - Res. 12

LCS Structure Number: 01210000

Feature: lamp posts

Feature Identification Number: 101671

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: benches

Feature Identification Number: 101665

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: trash receptacles

Feature Identification Number: 101673

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: interpretive wayside

Feature Identification Number: 101669

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: drinking fountains

Feature Identification Number: 101668

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: post-and-chain fencing

Feature Identification Number: 101672

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

Feature: concrete strip beneath post-and-chain fencing

Feature Identification Number: 101667

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



This view into the park, looking south from the NE corner, shows new features: post-and-chain, benches, trash receptacles, lamps. L19 sophora is in center of image. (CLP digital photofile Farragut Square/add Nov. 2004/FS view S to sophora and statue)

Farragut Square

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations



New concrete strip, placed along older quarter-round curbing to aid in mowing around posts, adds a discordant visual note. View looking north. (CLP digital photofile Farragut Square/add Nov. 2004/FS view up east sidewalk BW 300)



To the left is visible the contrast between older quarter-round curb and newer curb, which has an irregular profile. New drinking fountain is handicap accessible. (CLP digital photofile Farragut Square/add Nov. 2004/FS S side circle, drinking fountain)



This type of decorative iron fence, surrounding the base of the Farragut statue, was installed in other downtown parks in the 1930s. This photo dates from summer 2003. (CLP digital photofile Farragut Square/add Nov. 2004/cast-iron fence BWJ)

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/19/2011

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Although Farragut Square remains in good condition, the following current and potential impacts should be monitored and addressed to ensure that the landscape retains this favorable status.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/19/2005

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

While Farragut Square retains many of its historic characteristics, many features were upgraded during the 2004 rehabilitation.

The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment. The Date Recorded information refers to the date when condition was first assessed by the author of the report.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 07/23/2004

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Though Farragut Square still retains many features of its 1870s design, it is subject to heavy pedestrian use, particularly from commuters passing through daily on their way to and from work, office workers during the day, bicycle messengers, and homeless individuals. This use affects the soil, vegetation, and furnishings of the park.

The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment. The Date Recorded information refers to the date when condition was first assessed by the author of the report.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: High-rise office buildings occupy the adjacent blocks. Though these structures help define the urban square, they block sunlight. The large buildings also mean large numbers of people walk through the park. The heavy volume of vehicular traffic on

bordering streets has caused land to be taken from the park for street widening.

Type of Impact:

Exposure To Elements

External or Internal:

External

Impact Description:

As an outdoor monument, the Admiral Farragut statue is exposed to weather and pollution and requires periodic cleaning and maintenance.

Type of Impact:

Operations On Site

External or Internal:

Internal

Impact Description:

Farragut Square provides the setting for numerous activities, including concerts, movies, festivals, and demonstrations. These activities attract large numbers of visitors, and often require the setting up of stages and equipment, all of which affect the park.

Type of Impact:

Visitation

External or Internal:

Both Internal and External

Impact Description:

Farragut Square is located within the central business district, and thousands of office workers pass through the park daily. It also attracts a large number of visitors, lunchtime picnickers, and homeless persons, and serves as a gathering place for bicycle couriers. The volume of visitors is often too great for the park's walks. Erosion and soil compaction are currently minimal, but conditions should be closely monitored because these impacts often stem from heavy visitation.

Type of Impact:

Removal/Replacement

External or Internal:

Internal

Impact Description:

As part of the 2004 rehabilitation, much of the quarter-round curbing along the outer edges of the grass panels was replaced. New curbing was added in places where there had been none before. Much of the new curbing fails to replicate the quarter-round profile, and the profiles vary from section to section. Also, concrete strips were added along some of the curbs to provide a foundation for new post-and-chain fencing, and to make mowing easier. Historically, the high curbs replaced the post-and-chain fencing as a boundary element, and the two were never used together. Where post-and-chain fencing was used, it never had strips of concrete as a foundation element.

The use of this element at Farragut Square is not appropriate; it is a visual intrusion upon the grass panels, which historically had provided a continuous grass surface (as is still the case in the other downtown parks). As of August 2011, the park's curbing was in good overall condition with a few isolated instances of cracking and chipping.

Treatment

Treatment

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|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Approved Treatment: | Rehabilitation |
| Approved Treatment Document: | Other Document |
| Approved Treatment Completed: | Yes |

Approved Treatment Costs

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|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Landscape Treatment Cost: | 252,126.00 |
| Level of Estimate: | A - Working Drawings |
| Cost Estimator: | Regional Office |

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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Supplemental Information

Title: <http://www.dcmarketingcenter.com/business>

Description: A brief introduction of the Business Improvement District of Washington, D.C.